NORTHERN ISLANDER

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AUGUST

WHITEFISH ON THE WAY OUT ACCORDING TO BRIDGE MICHIGAN

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 14

READY TO RETURN, CORGI AND ALL

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 35

AN ISLAND INVASION IS AMONG US - SWAMP THISTLE

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WHAT'S MISSING IN THIS PICTURE?

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KAYAKING THE ARCHIPELAGO

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VIEW PAGE 20 FOR AN EXAMPLE

hello August

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

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Beaver Island Historical Society

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letters respond to topics discussed in the Op-Ed published in the July 2025 edition of the Northern Islander.

PEAINE TOWNSHIP MUST ACT

I would like to comment on the inaction by the Peaine Township Board regarding the Nazi and white supremacy ideology championed by the Vice Chair of the Peaine Township Zoning Board of Appeals.

In his Facebook postings, the Vice Chair expounds on his hateful beliefs towards various groups. The Vice Chair is free to hold such abhorrent views. He is not entitled, however, to subject Peaine Township property owners, when they must come before the Zoning Board of Appeals, to malicious and discriminatory biases.

The Peaine Township Board appears, so far, to have done the minimum possible to address this shameful situation. It did not ask the Vice Chair to attend a township meeting when this issue was brought up for discussion. It has not formally discussed censuring the Vice Chair for the views expressed, to make it clear that the Township disassociates itself from these views. It has not considered how to file a complaint with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, whose mission is to secure equal protection of civil rights for all people in Michigan.

By choosing, so far, not to formally repudiate the spiteful views of the Vice Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Peaine Township Board runs the risk of giving the appearance of endorsing those views.

I have owned property on the island for over 30 years. I care about the well-being of this community. I fear that having the Vice Chair continue in his current position with Peaine Township will lead to disrepute, not just for the township, but for the Beaver Island community as a whole.

In standing up for the values of respect and dignity for all, silence cannot be an option. Our community deserves leadership committed to upholding these principles, ensuring that all who engage with the township do so free from fear or from prejudice. The Board's response is a signal as to where we stand as a community and what we find acceptable in those chosen to serve.

I urge the Peaine Township Board to remove the Vice Chair of the ZBA from his position with the township. It is the ethically right thing to do, and the correct thing to do on behalf of Peaine Township residents and Beaver Island as a whole.

Louis Post

LEADERSHIP MUST REFLECT COMMUNITY VALUES

To the editors of The Northern Islander,

I'm writing in response to your recent opinion column regarding the Vice Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). I find his post regarding "Jewish Supremecists" (sic) deplorable.

I don't believe a person with such vile views can set them aside and vote reasonably and fairly on matters before the ZBA. And I doubt that his racist views are limited to Jews. What other minority groups are included in his worldview? Who among us can be assured of a fair, unbiased hearing?

I have questions about the appointment process itself. I assume vetting and approving candidates to township offices is the responsibility of the Township Board. What procedures are in place to guide this process?

And, since Peaine Township is a unit of Charlevoix County, I assume the Charlevoix Board of Commissioners is attentive to what goes on in the townships, given the national heightened sensitivity to antisemitism and its potential local impact.

John Martin

FREE SPEECH HAS LIMITS IN PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Dear Editor,

I appreciated the guest opinion in the July edition of The Northern Islander ("Peaine Township Grapples With Balancing Free Speech and Public Trust in Government Leadership"). As a teacher of the First Amendment for over thirty years, I was often struck by students who conflated free speech legal principles with free speech moral imperatives. They are not the same. Mark Twain once remarked that "We have two precious things in America: freedom of speech and the prudence never to practice it."

The First Amendment was designed to prevent the government from abridging free speech. It tolerates the false, despicable speech of "rascals" in order to assure the responsible speech of others. It offers legal protection, but not moral condemnation. That is a duty of good citizenship. Justice Louis Brandeis, our first Jewish Supreme Court Justice, once implied that the cure for bad speech is more speech.

The vile perpetuation of antisemitic stereotypes by the Vice Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals in his Facebook post deserves the community's condemnation. His post is the kind of speech that fueled the Holocaust and continues to breed prejudice and harm. It has no place in our public discourse.

Moreover, as a public official charged with the fair and equitable administration of the law, his actions erode the public trust in our government. Such speech fosters the appearance, if not the actuality, of discrimination. His post may be protected private speech, but it brings our community into disrepute.

If the Vice Chair really purports to represent all of us on the island, he should apologize and resign. That would be the proper moral response to a painful situation that he has created.

Ken Zick

PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

You may notice that this month's Print Shop Perspective content carries a more somber tone. Recently, Museum Director Lori Taylor-Blitz experienced a tragic loss that has shaken her and her family to the core. In memory of her nephew, Noah Taylor, we encourage you to hold your loved ones close, speak with kindness, and choose compassion whenever possible.

We also ask our community to be patient and respectful as Lori takes the time she needs to grieve and heal. Your understanding and support mean more than words can express.

IN MEMORY OF NOAH TAYLOR

Pictured is 22-year-old Noah Taylor of Nashville, Tennessee and nephew of local Museum Director Lori Taylor-Blitz

A YOUNG MAN'S LIFE CUT SHORT BY HATE

My 22-year-old nephew, Noah Taylor, was tragically murdered in a hate crime while driving to work in Nashville on July 12, 2025. I won't go into the sickening details—they're easy to find online.

This senseless act of violence has deeply affected my family. I can't help but question: how does such hatred develop? Are perpetrators shaped by long-standing generational hate speech that normalizes these crimes?

As a Museum Director, I spend my life preserving culture—but this painful event has made it difficult to focus on anything else. According to Britannica, hate speech is any expression that denigrates individuals based on group identities like race, gender, or religion. Justice.gov defines hate crimes as acts motivated by such biases.

Even on Beaver Island, some residents say they've encountered hate speech on local social media. While I'd like to believe we'll never experience such a disgusting disregard for life here, it has made me reflect on how hate takes root—and how much I value the cultural differences that shape our peaceful island community. Thankfully:

- Instead of road rage, we wave.
- Instead of traffic, we have boodlers.
- Instead of angry travels, we find serenity.

We may disagree—but we can still break bread together at the end of the day.

We coexist.

Remember: your words can spread either love or hate. Choose wisely. Hate destroys lives and breeds fear. Love sustains humanity.

Thank you for your kindnes and support,

Lori Taylor-Blitz

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BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

August 21, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
At the Old Mormon Print Shop Museum

BEAVER ISLAND ASSOCIATION UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING

August 12, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
At the Beaver Island Community Center
Meet and greet beginning at 2:30 p.m.

WELCOME TO THE WELLNESS GARDEN TOUR – REIMAGINED!

Submitted by Monica Longlet

Come join us for a special Garden Spotlight Event on Saturday, August 9th 1p.m. to 4p.m., featuring a unique Beaver Island garden and its passionate gardener, all to support the Beaver Island Rural Health Center (BIRHC) Wellness Garden. Savor light refreshments and soak in the beauty of nature!

No tickets needed; contributions graciously welcomed to support the maintenance of the Wellness Garden.

Carpooling is encouraged due to limited parking.

Experience this fresh format, connect with our community, and find inspiration!

Watch for location details on Facebook and the Community Center Calendar.

COMING BACK TO THE ISLAND?

CONTACT THE NORTHERN ISLANDER
TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS, DATES, AND EMAIL

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2025 Upcoming Events

Aug 11 — **Music on the Porch**
Bring a lawn chair & join us on Monday for an evening of our favorite Island music. Event starts 7pm

Aug 15-16 — **2025 Film Festival**
BIHS presents Michigan-made films accompanied by their respective producers. 7pm, Sat Matinee TBD

Aug 17 — **Beaver Island Lighthouse Open House**
This Place Matters picnic & tours. Event starts 1pm

Sept 26 — **Anishnaabe Traditions & Culture Views**
Intro to Great Lakes Anishinaabe way of life & traditions that live on today. Event starts 7pm.

Oct 13 — **History of LTBB & GTB Tribes**
Learn how these two sister tribes govern themselves & the history of how they became sovereign. Event starts at 5:30pm.

Dec 5 — **Holiday Social**
Join us for the Annual Holiday Social. Visit & enjoy the museum adorned with decor. Event starts at 6pm.

www.beaverislandhistory.org/print-shop

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Tried and True Family Favorite Recipes

Loretta Slater's Rhubarb Cake

Submitted by Rach Becker

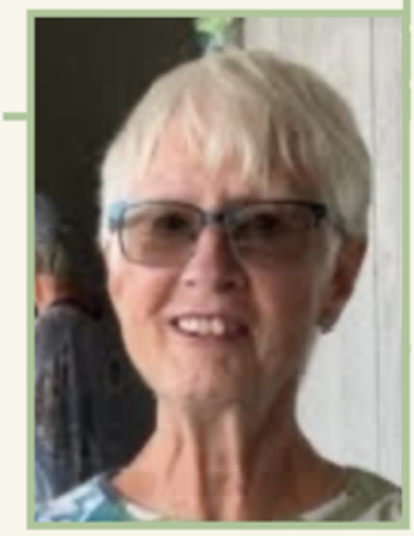
Each month, we will feature recipes sure to have you coming back for second helpings. These are the recipes we grew up with—and still make today.

Loretta (LaFreniere) Slater is the oldest of seven children born to Archie and Frances (Connaghan) LaFreniere on Beaver Island.

She's sweet and funny and loves to dance at hall parties. You know it's going to be a good time when my Aunt "Rah" is in the room. She's always ready to lend a helping hand, and she has been actively involved in community organizations throughout the years. Though born and raised on the Island, she spent most of her life in the Lansing, Michigan area. She and her husband, Ken, moved back to Beaver Island permanently in February 2003.

She has a rhubarb plant that produces a bountiful harvest each spring. Loretta, her daughter, and her grandchildren pick it together—and this is one of the recipes she makes.

Blasta (Irish for "delicious")!



Ingredients:
1 1/2 cups brown sugar, packed
1/2 cup butter
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup sour milk (stir 1 tablespoon vinegar into 1 cup milk and let stand for a few minutes)
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups flour
1 1/2 cups raw rhubarb, finely chopped
1/2 cup walnuts

Cream the sugar and butter; add the egg and salt, and mix. Stir in the sour milk, baking soda, vanilla, and flour. Add the rhubarb and walnuts and stir until combined. Pour into a greased and floured 13x9-inch pan.

Sprinkle the top with a mixture of 1/4 cup sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon.

Bake at 375°F for 22 to 24 minutes.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

August is MAKE A WILL Month.

Including C3F in your will or estate plan is one of the easiest ways to leave a lasting legacy right here on Beaver Island, without impacting your current finances.

You can plan in advance to create a fund to benefit your favorite cause or organization, or to advance needs and opportunities right here on Beaver Island through one of our grantmaking funds.

Contact us today to find out how!

Long-time Beaver Island residents, **Bob and Alana Anderson,** and their entire family, make local giving a priority. As dedicated Island volunteers and C3F donors, they will leave a lasting legacy for Island residents though their planned giving.

www.C3F.org | 231.536.2440 | info@c3f.org

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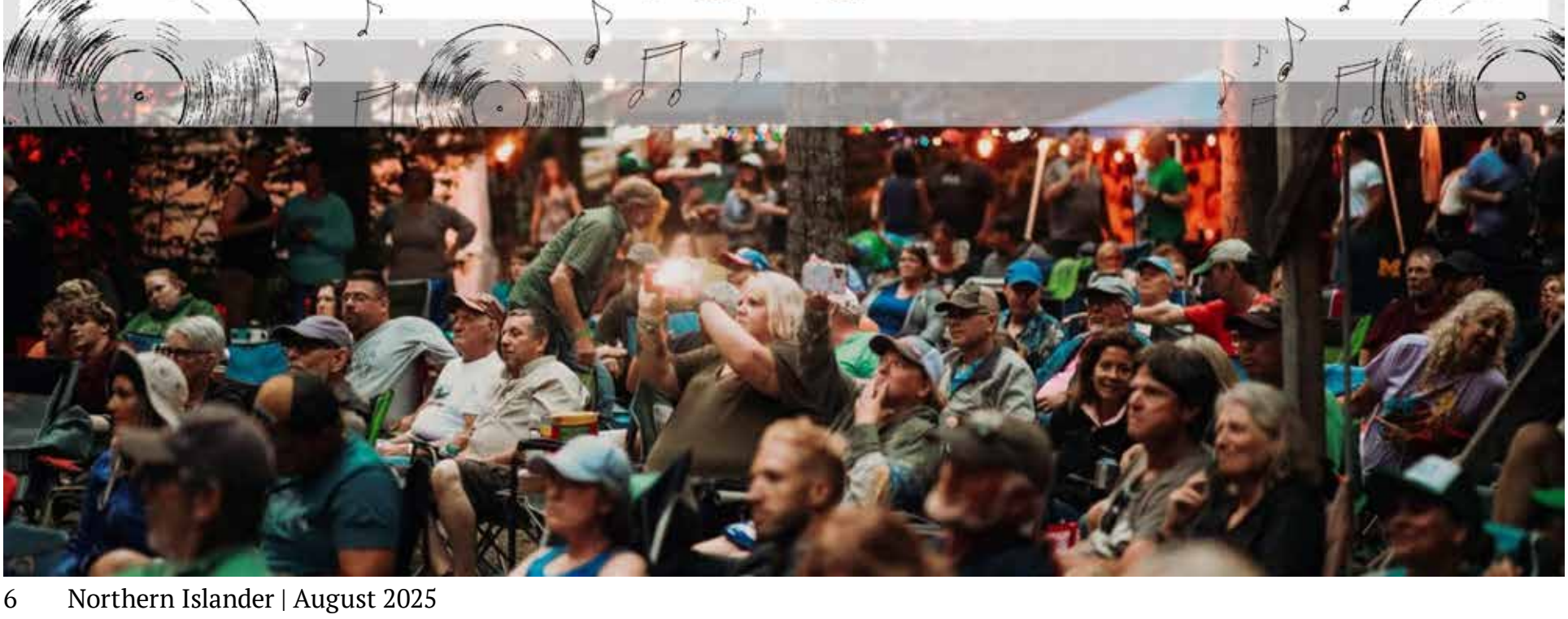

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

PAST EVENTS:

Marcia Coleman, the Seed Library Speaker, June 20 spoke on the topic of tomatoes. She gave many tips about growing tomatoes and other veggies and passed out samples of a "secret" fertilizer (turkey poo) to attendees. Marcia recently moved to the island part-time, purchasing a home on Lake Genesereth, from Ohio where she operated a farm, Coleman Gardens, that featured over 1000 tomato plants. A very knowledgeable resource for the island gardeners!

MELISSA KAELIN, JUNE 21

Author of Beyond the 45th Parallel and Aurora chaser, honored us with a fabulous presentation on her great love of everything AURORAS. You may find Melissa on her website and several social platforms for people of like-minds.

Tim Mulherin- Author of This Magnetic North, June 24, entertained the audience with readings and discussion of how the influx of people moving out of the cities are affecting the small communities in northern Michigan. His book is available to borrow at the library.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, PADDY AEDAN, JULY 10

Paddy Aiden was our first Artist in Residence presentation. She worked in acrylics, graphite and a type of ink made from nuts. Her works featured various places on island and were awesome!

The Seedkeepers organization created this program where the artists selected spend a couple of weeks on the island creating works of art in their chosen medium. Then they present their work at the Library towards the end of their stay. We have two lined up for August. Check the dates and come and see what they have created.

THEN AND NOW:
STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Cybersecurity expert, Lisa Plaggemier, July 14. Lisa Plaggemier is the Executive Director of National Cybersecurity Alliance. Lisa and her daughter Katie led a hands-on presentation on keeping safe online for approximately 20 people at the Library. We had a few local "Tech Savvy" individuals (Nick DeLaat, Kevin Boyle, Dick Mulvihill, Greg Doig) helping out during the two-hour program. The program was paid in part through our technology grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation.

DORIS LARSEN: PLEIN AIR WATERCOLORS ON JULY 15

July is World Watercolor Month and in celebration we hosted with the Beaver Island Gallery, a Plein Air event. Many folks signed up to attend. Supplies were distributed at the Gallery and some had their own materials. Works are displayed at the Library display case. Stop in to see some of the wonderful paintings!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AUGUST!

Beading with Nancy Peterson, August 4 at 10 a.m. Kids age 8yrs & up can join Nancy Peterson in making friendship bracelets. All materials will be provided.

Chris Thelen, author of Islands of Deception and Ride to Redemption, will be at the library at 7:00p.m. on August 5th to discuss and sign his novels. Both were set on Beaver Island and are an exciting read. Available to read at the library.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:
Elizabeth Clair Rose, August 7 at 7:30 p.m. Elizabeth uses printmaking, photography and collage to create work informed by ecological patterns of native plant communities. On Beaver Island, she is focusing on native plant communities and basing her work on distributions of various flora.

COLOR OUR WORLD: END OF SUMMER READING PARTY

Families, join us August 13 from 3 p.m.-4 p.m. for our end of summer party. There's still time to sign up for our summer reading program. Kids read what they love and earn prizes too. Attend the Beyond the Pages, Babes and Toddlers, Teen Art/Movie nights for more exciting activities around the Color our World theme.

UP IN MICHIGAN TALK BY SUE METZGER

Executive Director of the Horton Bay Hemingway Society will give a talk at the library on August 13, 3 p.m.

Having encountered Ernest Hemingway through academic studies, Sue never imagined that life would be intertwined with his, for the past thirty years. Upon moving to Horton Bay, Michigan, Sue began living in Pinehurst (Dilworth House) and became the owner of ShangriLa, at one-time a boarding house owned by the Dilworths. Both houses were the sites of his wedding reception of his 1st marriage. There are also connections to Hemingway as places where he stayed, worked, & rented. Scholars and tourists alike have come to Horton Bay to explore his early years. At the dedication of the Hemingway statue at Pinehurst, the Horton Bay Hemingway Society was formed with it's purpose to inform and educate about Ernest Hemingway's life into young adulthood in Horton Bay. Sue is one of it's founding members. As a resident of Horton Bay, Sue has been involved in it's Fourth of July Parade and Labor Day Bridge Walk. She enjoys traveling, gardening, reading, walking with her dog, and completing fused glass projects.

TEEN MOVIE NIGHT:
August 19 we will host our 1st Teen Movie Night. From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. teens are welcome to hang out and watch Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

BOBI BOOK CLUB:
August 20 at 3 p.m. to discuss Crow Talk by Eileen Garvin. All are welcome to attend to discuss this book.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:
Valerie Mann, August 21 at 7:30 p.m. Valerie uses mixed media sculpture and watercolor connecting them in a way that takes the viewer's imagination somewhere totally unexpected. He residency will focus on creating thoughtful work with repurposed materials and minimizing her impact on the environment.

Phone number: 231-448-2801

IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK!

By Barbara Lucas

Two years ago we noticed a tall prickly plant with small purple flowers spreading rapidly on our land. At first we thought it might be the native Swamp thistle, but its exponential rate of reproduction and sharp prickers were clues it's the European swamp thistle. That was bad news, because their basal leaves blanket the ground and crowd out native species (including our precious Lady slippers)!

Because it poses such a threat, our Peaine Township Invasive Species (PTIS) program coordinator Cheryl Kern and her two CMU interns have removed over a ton of European swamp thistle from locations all over the island. But it reproduces way faster than just three people can get it! They are stretched thin–with so many different invasives to tackle, they must focus on the most ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. to protect endangered Monkey flower) and pounce on small populations of newly arrived invasives before they spread (e.g. Houndstongue, our latest).

The good news is that thistle removal does make a dent–last year where we removed it, it didn't come back! So we're hopeful we can keep on top of what we have. The big challenge is to keep more from blowing in–it's an island-wide project! With the support of the PTIS program, I believe that if everyone on the island learns about it, we CAN nip it in the bud (literally).

Combining our experiences and advice from TIS, here's some Q&A to help get the word out:

Q: What does it look like?
A: European swamp thistle has a basal rosette of prickly green leaves. It grows a central stalk that terminates in clusters of small, dark purple flowers. Note that it looks very different from the endangered Pitcher's thistle (on the left) which has soft, silvery leaves, and big, light pinkish flowers.

Q: Where does it grow?
A: This prickly plant isn't picky. We find it everywhere on our property (we are constantly scouting!), whether it's woods, beach or meadows. But it loves our wetlands best, where it turns into thick monocultures.

Q: What's our strategy?
A: Each plant can make 2,000 fluffy seeds that are windblown far and wide, so preventing it from going to seed is mission #1. We wear boots and leather gloves, and carry buckets. We bend the thistle stalk down into the bucket so we can pop off the flowerheads into it without letting the seeds blow away. When we get home we dump the contents of our buckets into bags and take them to the Transfer Station. Note: they accept them in any bag, for free (just be sure they are closed tight)!

Q: Once you take the flowers off, will the plant die?
A: No, unfortunately they're super-resilient and can flower again. In fact, grazed plants grow back stronger! So we pull it up by the roots– grab the stalk at the base and tug–or at least cut off the stalk at the very base. If all its flowers and buds are removed, the stalk and roots can safely compost on-site.

Q: What about the first-year rosettes (see photo)?
A: They overwinter to flower next year, so dig them up if you can. On our property there are too many–we have all we can handle just getting the flowers. But we'll come back in the fall and next spring to tackle rosettes. They are easier to find then, when the other vegetation has died back. Those we miss, we'll grab next July when they flower. This is a multi-year project!

Q: Do you need special tools?

A: No! A Grandpa's Weeder is helpful for popping up rosettes–roots and all–without having to bend over, and a narrow shovel like a Root Slayer is handy for the big, stubborn ones (you can borrow both from the Transfer Station). But a trowel or small shovel is fine too. Whatever you use, minimize disturbance to the soil, otherwise new thistle seeds will grab hold!

Q: Why don't we just nuke it with pesticides?
A: We don't want to kill surrounding vegetation and create bare soil, which is the perfect breeding ground for new thistles! We are experimenting with using a backpack sprayer to very carefully spot-spray a few drops on rosettes to see if they die back without "collateral damage."

Q: Should we leave some for bees and butterflies?
A: No! Our native pollinators did not evolve with this European thistle, and they are not dependent on it–there are plenty of native flowers they can go to instead. The real risk to them is loss of those native plants, which will occur if we let invasives spread! Every thistle plant can make thousands more. Please don't do what I did and think, "Oh it's just a few. Not worth the trouble…" Oh, how I wish I could turn back the clock!

Q: OK, I'm motivated! What can I do?
A: If you own property, look for it and remove it! And no matter where you go on the island, get in the habit of carrying leather gloves and a plastic bag so that if you spot any, you can grab it before it goes to seed. If you find a patch bigger than you can handle, report it to PTIS coordinator Cheryl Kern at invasivespecies@peainetownship.gov.
Together we CAN make a difference!

BAY NORTH REALTY

32075 East Side Drive
Beaver Island

A plant lovers paradise! This lovely east side home has floor to ceiling windows with southern exposure providing ample natural light year round. One bedroom, currently an office/den, and full bathroom are located on the main floor, along with an open kitchen/dining/living area. There is a cozy fireplace and sitting area just off the kitchen, as well as a convenient pantry and laundry room. Enjoy dinner on the deck overlooking the surrounding perennial beds, which are protected by a deer fence. On the north side of the house is a finished workspace/art studio with a wood stove, sink, and built in table and storage. Upstairs you will find a sleeping loft/non-conforming bedroom, spa-like bathroom, and electric sauna. Walls could be added to convert the loft into two bedrooms, it is currently being used as a sunny primary suite with sitting area. There are 6+ acres offering privacy and woodland views. The Jordan River passes through the western portion of the property where you will enjoy seeing the seasonal changes of the river, and an abundance of wildlife. Bill Wagner Campground is a couple minutes down the road for Lake Michigan access. Call to schedule your showing!

Heather Robinson, Associate Broker

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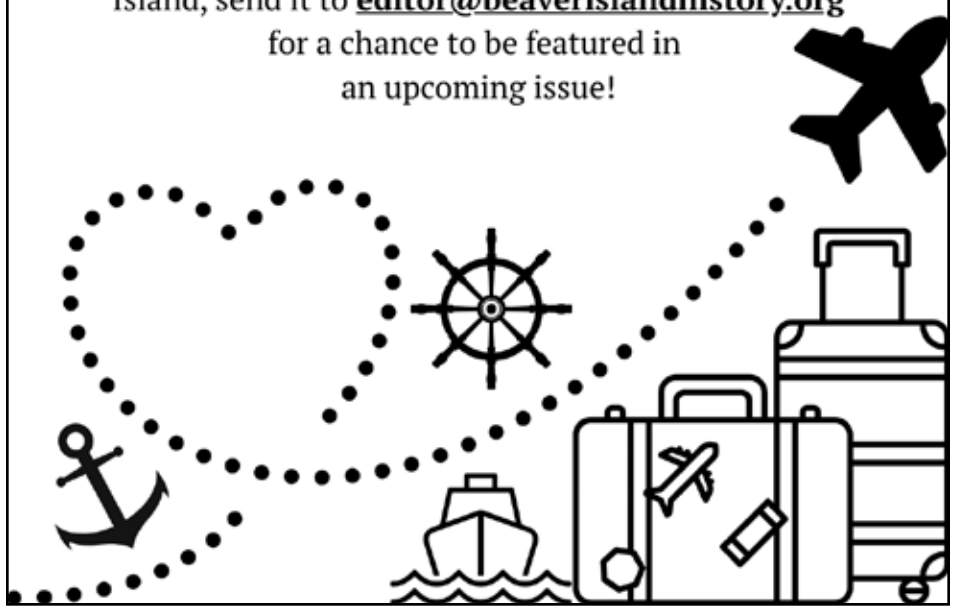
SHARE YOUR TRAVEL MOMENTS

As you make your way to and from the Island this busy season, don't forget to take some pictures! It's an unspoken Island tradition to snap a quick photo of your travels, whether you're soaring in the sky or cruising across Lake Michigan.

Whether you're a longtime resident or a first-time visitor, your perspective matters. So, while you're soaking in the scenery and enjoying the journey, get out your camera or phone and snap a moment to share with our community.

If you have a photo of your 2025 travels to Beaver Island, send it to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue!



ON THE FRONT PORCH WITH THERESA GACEK

By Michelle LaFreniere

Theresa "Teri" Gacek was the eighth child born to Jack and Bea Boyle. She considers herself to be in the middle group of kids. There were five more after her. She wasn't born on the island as a some of her older siblings were, but rather in Chicago, a city she loved her whole life.

She is home on the island now, among her greatest treasures, her siblings, nieces, and nephews.

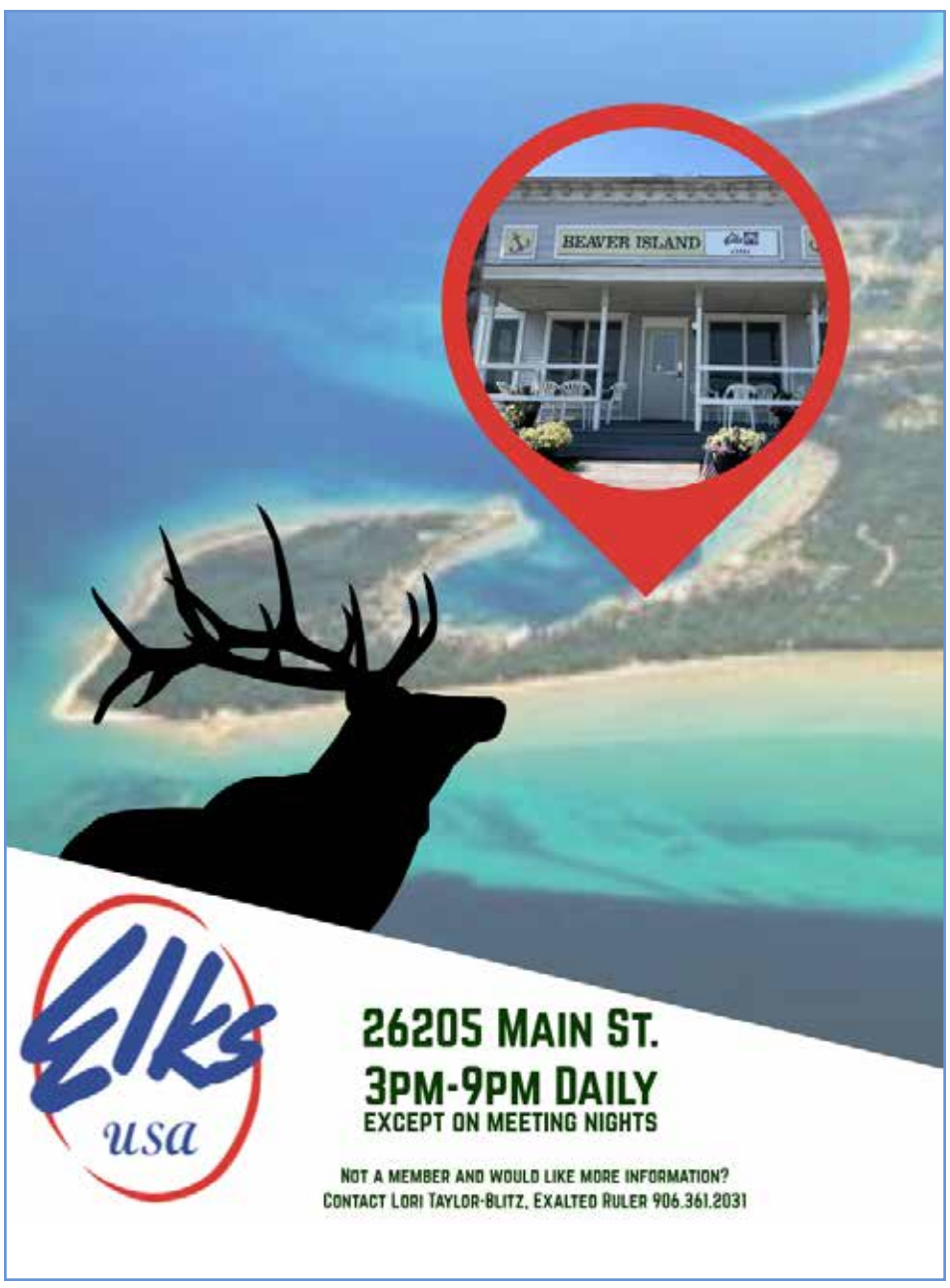
I stopped to visit Teri the other day. I've been meaning to do it since she arrived in April. I have always admired and really liked Teri. She reminds me of a female version of her brother Neal. Fun, funny and quick witted. My kind of people. She tempers that with a truly generous giving heart. Also my kind of people.

Teri was relaxing in one of the most beautiful home renovations I've seen in a long time. When it was decided that she was coming back to the island, her brother Steve jumped into action and renovated her home to accommodate her current and future needs. He thought of everything. The beverage bar, the hidden washer and dryer, the beautiful user-friendly kitchen. Teri said he even picked out the décor. It is gorgeous. There are windows across the entire front of the house. Her view is nothing short of spectacular. She says she really enjoys watching the activity on the harbor, especially on sleepless nights when it is all lit up. She spends a lot of time reflecting on her life.

What a life she has had. She grew up in Chicago, and as a high school graduate she began working for Upjohn Pharmaceutical in Oakbrook, Illinois. She did general office work there for a few years. From there she went to work for Northern Illinois University in their on-campus medical center.

In the early 1970's she worked for a company called J. Walter Thompson (JWT) which, at the time, was one of the top five advertising agencies in the world. During her approximately 15 years there she rose from a general office worker to Vice President of Market Research, following extensive college-based areas of study. Their client base included some of the top US and World-wide Food and Service Companies.

During her tenure at JWT, a man by the name of During her tenure at JWT a man by the name of Jack Keane, PhD took Teri under his wing and helped her to grow in both the company and in her knowledge of the trade. He eventually left for a lead position with the US Census Bureau.



In the mid 1980's Teri along with a co-worker left JWT and founded Strategic Marketing Inc. It was a full-service market-based consumer research company. By full service they mean that they took care of both the qualitative and quantitative needs of top US based companies.

By the early 1990's Teri struck out on her own in her own company aptly named Teri Gacek Associates. It was there that she was fully able to utilize her skills in Qualitative consumer-based research. She retired from this company.

She married but never had children. Her work was her baby. She thoroughly enjoyed her years working and traveling.

In the early 2000's she moved to Scottsdale, Arizona for a number of reasons. She loved Arizona for its continuous beautiful weather and stunning state-wide landscape. She says it is breathtaking. Teri has always been an adventure seeker. Her mantra has always been "travel the farthest when you are young; save the big cities and popular countries for when you are older" Travel she did! She had the opportunity and luck to travel to some amazing and far away spots in the world. Russia, China, Bali, Australia, New Zealand and several more.

Her other mantra is "You can do anything for 15 minutes." Her 15 minutes of doing anything has included riding an elephant in Thailand, bungee jumping off a bridge in New Zealand, skiing in the Alps. I am terrified just thinking of them. She has also taken many safaris in Africa too, and that's more my speed. She has loved experiencing other cultures. One of her favorite memories is sitting on the floor of a typical family home in Bali watching the Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan win the NBA title. Betcha can't top that!

While she was not born and raised here, Beaver Island has always been home. Her most fond memories on the island include long hikes, watching the sunsets at Barney's Lake, the sunrise at her home on the harbor. Walking the beaches is another favorite. Picnics at the O'Donnell Family Farm which she helped to turn into a preserve for all to enjoy. Her mother was an O'Donnell.

Welcome home, Teri. I thought you'd never get here. I hope you enjoy every single sunrise, for it is a sign of a new day.

GOOD TROUBLE PROTEST

On July 17, Islanders joined a nationwide demonstration commemorating civil rights advocate John Lewis and protesting recent policies.

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NEXT FERRY DESIGN SET

By George Broder

On July 16th, a standing room only crowd of about 65 people attended a two-hour meeting of the Beaver Island Transportation Authority (BITA). Two options were discussed, a conventional steel hull build and a new technology carbon fiber design option.

The Beaver Island Boat Company (BIBCO) recommended the steel hull design be chosen. Almost all the public testimony was in agreement with this position. The BITA Board voted unanimously, 5-0, to take this course.

The current Emerald Isle ferry is owned by BITA, and operated under contract by BIBCO. It was built in 1997, is 130' long, can carry 300 passengers with up to 20 vehicles.

The new longer ferry is expected to carry 296 passengers, over 20 vehicles, and estimated to cost $23.3 million with 38% contingency for inflation.

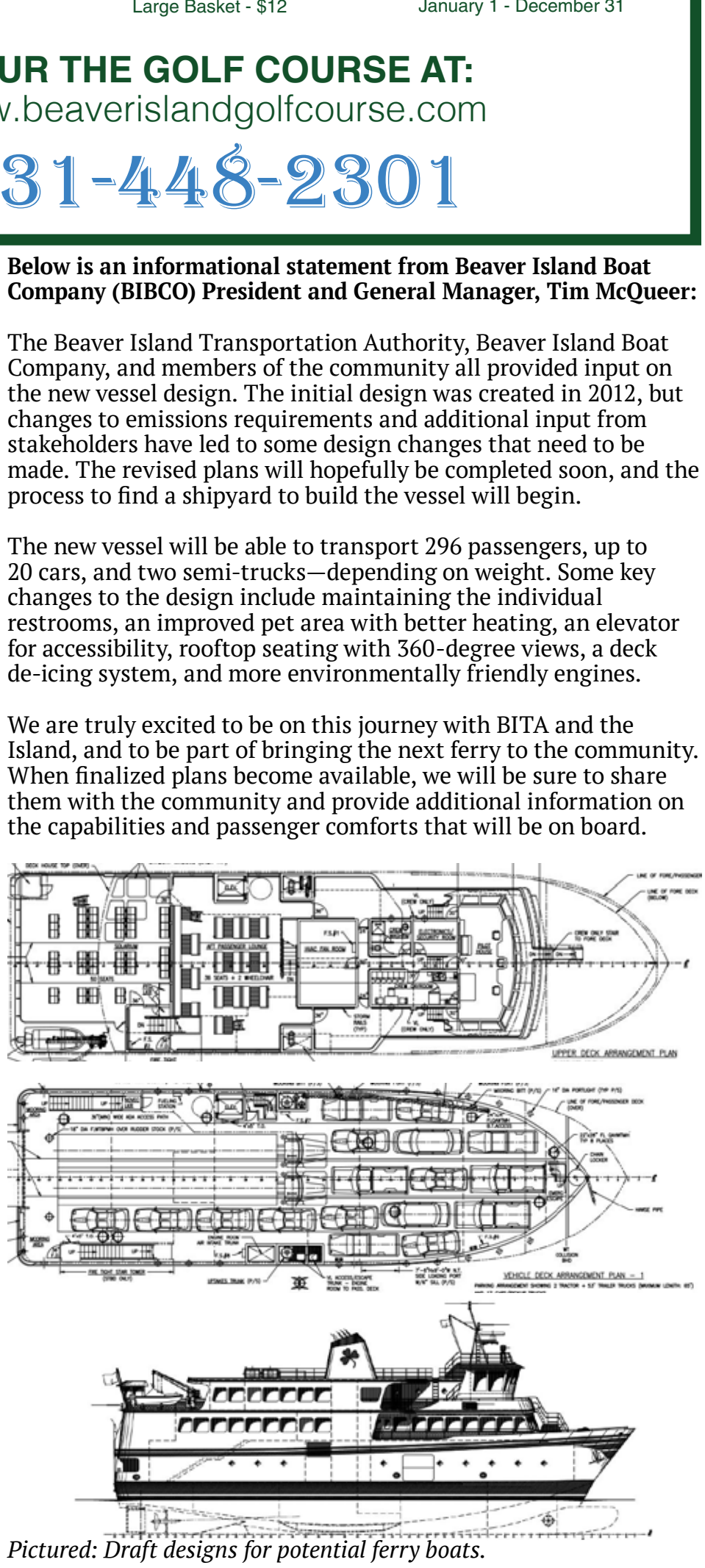
Ferry construction timeline isn't set. Ultimately, when the new ship is launched, the long serving Beaver Islander (1962) will be retired and the Emerald Isle will assume that role.

Below is an informational statement from Beaver Island Boat Company (BIBCO) President and General Manager, Tim McQueer:

The Beaver Island Transportation Authority, Beaver Island Boat Company, and members of the community all provided input on the new vessel design. The initial design was created in 2012, but changes to emissions requirements and additional input from stakeholders have led to some design changes that need to be made. The revised plans will hopefully be completed soon, and the process to find a shipyard to build the vessel will begin.

The new vessel will be able to transport 296 passengers, up to 20 cars, and two semi-trucks—depending on weight. Some key changes to the design include maintaining the individual restrooms, an improved pet area with better heating, an elevator for accessibility, rooftop seating with 360-degree views, a deck de-icing system, and more environmentally friendly engines.

We are truly excited to be on this journey with BITA and the Island, and to be part of bringing the next ferry to the community. When finalized plans become available, we will be sure to share them with the community and provide additional information on the capabilities and passenger comforts that will be on board.



Pictured: Draft designs for potential ferry boats.

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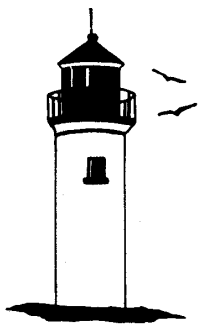

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In BI real estate

The Weekly/McDowell Home at 37659 Kings Highway

A beautiful 2,940 sq. ft. home on the edge of the town of St. James. This large home sits in the middle of a 4.82 Acre Parcel of landscaped woods. It has four bedrooms with 4-1/2 baths (Each bedroom has its own in-suite bathroom). This home was custom built and everything about it is state of the art and first class. It has a western/ mountain lodge motif throughout much of the interior paneling is Florida Pine and the flooring is reclaimed lumber. It has a covered porch over the main entrance on the circular drive side of the house. There is a fantastic 12' by 43' screened-in porch across the whole back of the house and a lovely barbecue area at the North end. To the West of the home there is a no development conservation easement for this property's privacy. A four car plus drive-in garage is part of the full basement. There are two propane central heating furnaces, and air conditioning throughout. A large automatic propane powered generator is in place for power outages. A Deep Well provides absolutely perfect water to all parts of the house.The roof is a $55,000 lifetime guarantee metal roof. See the Bullet Points list of features and special systems on our website for the unique details of this home. The original owners put over $1.5 Million into building it- not counting the land. The raw land value is $175,000 and current replacement cost of this home would be $1,764,000 making this property's replacement cost $1,939,000. All of the furnishings and personal property that anyone would need for a wonderful package will be sold to a buyer at a reasonable price. The Real Estate will be sold at **1,050,000**

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ICONIC WHITEFISH ON EDGE OF COLLAPSE AS GREAT LAKES BIODIVERSITY CRISIS DEEPENS

Originally published by Bridge Michigan on June 22, 2025

- Whitefish have remained a staple in the Great Lakes for millennia, surviving threats that decimated other species
- Now, they are on the brink themselves; catches have plummeted, newborns are dying and adults are approaching old age
- Some fear the fish could disappear entirely from their once-prime habitat in the lower Great Lakes

LELAND — Locals and tourists alike flock to The Cove restaurant for Great Lakes whitefish, served 10 ways with a view of the docks where fishermen have hauled in Lake Michigan's bounty for nearly two centuries.

"Why get something else?" said Bob Hasse, a lifelong Michigander who visits the place every summer. "I can get a hamburger anywhere."

Fried, baked, smoked, whipped into a pâté or dried and ground into powder in the Anishinaabe tradition, whitefish have been a cornerstone of Great Lakes cuisine and culture for millenia, revered for their mild taste, tenderness and abundance.

Like lobster to Maine and salmon to Alaska, "it is perhaps one of, if not the signature animals in all of the state's long history," said Matthew Daley, a Great Lakes historian at Grand Valley State University.

But these days, stocks in Lake Michigan have grown so thin that The Cove often buys whitefish caught hundreds of miles away, rather than from the waters off those historic docks.

After decades of slow decline, the fish are now on the brink of collapse in most of lakes Michigan and Huron. Invasive mussels at the bottom of the lakes have filtered away microorganisms, leaving behind crystal-clear waters that are a veritable desert for whitefish.

"We've literally watched a population (grow old) and disappear in front of our eyes," said Jason Smith, a Great Lakes biologist with the Bay Mills Indian Community.

"It makes me sick to say it, but I can't imagine any way we can change the ecosystem in the amount of time that we have left."
In lakes that once produced tens of millions of new adult whitefish each year, reproduction has been abysmal since the early 2000s. Commercial harvests have plummeted from 6.9 million pounds in 2009 to less than 2 million in 2024.

Many fish still alive today are in their mid-20s and will soon die of old age if humans or predators don't kill them first. Like humans, aging fish have a harder time reproducing. And most of the offspring they do produce are dying within days, likely starved or sunburned to death in the unnaturally clear water.

To fix the problem, society must figure out how to subdue the invasive mussels. But at the current level of investment in research, such a discovery is years to decades away.

Alarmed by the decline, state and tribal regulators this year set the most conservative commercial harvest limits on record in central Lake Michigan, slashing catches 94% to 10,000 pounds from 170,200 last year.

Scientists attempting to recover whitefish by hatching them into rivers are struggling to even catch enough fish for the experiment.

More than a blow to the region's culture, economy and dinner plates, the collapse threatens to tear a hole in the food web, with unpredictable consequences for other species. Some fear whitefish won't be the last victims as a 21st century biodiversity crisis sweeps over the Great Lakes and the world.

Whitefish are on brink in Michigan. Can they learn to love rivers to survive?

Life on Earth is vanishing at a rate unmatched in human history. Birds, insects and bats are all in sharp decline and 58 species joined Michigan's threatened and endangered species list during the most recent update.

Whitefish command public attention because they're delicious and beloved. Other species, from sculpin fish to skipperling butterflies, risk fading away largely unnoticed.

"We are losing, by increments, these things that if you made the choice all at once, you'd say 'Oh, that's a disaster,'" said Frank Ettawageshik, executive director of the United Tribes of Michigan. The end result is "a loss of part of our own identity."

'INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY'
The losses are caused by a web of human threats: fossil fuel consumption is heating the globe faster than plants and animals can adapt. Sprawling development is gobbling up habitat. Pollution is filling seabird bellies with plastic shards and pumping fish full of toxic chemicals.

In the Great Lakes, a startling amount of loss is attributable to the spread of invasive species across land and water, a product of a global economy that allows stowaways to easily travel on ships and planes.

Few have been more destructive than the quagga mussel, a thumbnail-sized European shellfish that crossed the Atlantic in a cargo ship's ballast water in the late 1980s. When biologist J. Ellen Marsden sounded alarms a few years later, the response was mostly a shrug.

By then, the lakes had already been transformed multiple times over by other invasives. And the quaggas looked strikingly similar to the invasive zebra mussels that had already colonized the shallow waters.

"There is this really bad tendency to say, well, innocent until proven guilty, " said Marsden, now a professor emeritus at the University of Vermont.

"People just said…is this really going to be any worse?"
The answer was yes — far worse.

Unlike zebras, quaggas can survive in water hundreds of feet deep. They now blanket the lake bottom in 4 out of 5 Great Lakes. Superior has been largely spared because it lacks the calcium mussels need to grow their shells.

The mussels filter the entire volume of lakes Michigan and Huron every couple of weeks, stripping away nutrient-dense plankton and algae and spitting out Carribean-clear water devoid of life.

Spring zooplankton blooms, the primary food source for baby whitefish, have plummeted. Diporeia, a shrimp-like organism eaten by adult whitefish, have also disappeared.

Adults pulled from the lake are thin, their stomachs frequently empty. Beaches that once teemed with billions of juvenile whitefish, called adikameg in the Anishinaabe language, are now desolate.

Each spring, scientists tow large seine nets along the shoreline to monitor the population. Last year, biologist Tina Van Doornik's team caught just one whitefish in 36 tows.

This year hasn't been much better.

"They just don't exist," said Van Doornik, who works for Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee.

"Somewhere between the larval and the juvenile, it just drops off."

If famine wasn't bad enough, shorter winters caused by climate change may be destroying whitefish eggs and causing survivors to hatch prematurely into waters where they risk deadly sunburns.

Sunlight penetrates nearly twice as deep now that plankton and beneficial algae have largely vanished from the lakes. Lab tests at Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio, showed that after 12 hours under a low dose of UV light, most larval whitefish died within days, their bodies sometimes contorted into a grotesque corkscrew.

"Wild fish aren't just getting 12 hours of UV exposure," said Nicole Berry, a US Geological Survey biologist who led the study. "They're getting exposed every day."

Invasive mussel shells are more common than pebbles on the beach near Petoskey. (Kelly House/Bridge Michigan)

‘PEOPLE DON’T CARE’
There are no reliable estimates of how many whitefish are left in the waters that ring the Mitten. But Joel Petersen can tell you how empty his nets have become.

On a recent morning, the commercial fisherman who splits his time between Muskegon and Leland pulled just 12 keepers from a net capable of holding thousands. With that amount, he said, “you can’t even pay the property taxes on the dock.”

The fish have long been the backbone of Michigan’s commercial fishing industry, comprising about 90% of sales with a dockside value of about $5 million from state-regulated boats, plus more from tribally-regulated boats. But harvest from Lake Michigan is down 70% since 2009. In Huron, where declines started earlier, it’s down 80% since 2000.

A fourth-generation fisherman, Petersen now takes welding jobs on the side to make ends meet and hopes to hold his license as long as his 73-year-old dad is willing to fish with him.

Some scientists have theorized the mussel population could peak, subside and reach a new equilibrium that allows whitefish to recover. If not, “10 years from now there won’t be anybody left fishing,” said Petersen, 45.

BRINK OF COLLAPSE
Michigan’s beloved whitefish are rapidly disappearing in lakes Michigan and Huron, aside from Saginaw Bay and Green Bay. Here’s a look at numbers that tell the story:

- Harvests have declined to less than 2 million pounds in 2024 from 6.9 million in 2009.
- Whitefish rarely live beyond 30 years. Many fish caught today are in their mid-20s.
- Like humans, their odds of successful reproduction grow dimmer with age. And most offspring that manage to hatch are dying within days or weeks.
- Efforts to suppress invasive quagga mussels — the root cause of whitefish’s problems — are years to decades away from bearing fruit.

Nowadays, what little fish is caught in Lakes Huron and Michigan mostly comes from Saginaw and Green bays, where nutrients from farm run-off compensate for the mussels. But pollution in the bays — from farms and industry — also fuels nuisance algae blooms and makes it unsafe to eat too many fish.

It’s an irony not lost on Steve Lenart, a longtime fish biologist who now works for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

“I would have never thought in my life that we’d be saying, ‘Yeah, southern Green Bay is where it’s at for lake whitefish,’” Lenart said.

With the lower lakes increasingly barren, fishing efforts are shifting to the mostly mussel-free waters of Lake Superior.

Outside of those strongholds, scientists are split on whether whitefish might disappear entirely from the waters that ring the Lower Peninsula, or merely dwindle to a tiny remnant population. It’s a shocking prediction for a fish known as one of the Great Lakes’ greatest survivors.

Whitefish survived the logging era, when species like the Arctic grayling disappeared from Michigan’s waters. They bounced back from rampant overfishing, unlike the blue pike.

And whitefish held on even when invasive sea lamprey drove deepwater cisco to extinction.

“They’re such a resilient, marvelous fish,” said Cindi John, a commercial fisher and member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. “The most amazing fish there is.” Now, she fears a variety of human-caused changes to the lakes have “wiped out our buffalo.”

Other fish also face an uncertain future. Salmon numbers have tanked. Invasive mussels are also bad for walleye. And experts fear that lesser-known fish like burbot, gar and suckers may be quietly struggling, too.

With limited public dollars devoted to fish and wildlife management — the DNR receives just 0.5% of the state’s general fund budget — “we just don’t have the resources to evaluate all of these species,” said DNR fisheries biologist David Caroffino.

There are some hopeful stories — lake trout, for instance, have developed a taste for round gobies, an invasive preyfish that seems to thrive on a diet of mussels. But overall, the lakes’ lack of food has dramatically reduced the amount of fish they can produce. And the mussels aren’t done expanding their territory.

A DOOR LEFT OPEN
Meanwhile, gaps in invasive species control policies leave the Great Lakes vulnerable to future invaders.

Since 2008, federal regulations have required oceangoing ships to rinse their ballast tanks with saltwater before entering the Great Lakes, a ritual meant to kill off invasive hitchhikers. It has slowed new introductions from every few months to every three-plus years.

But there is evidence that ships that never leave the Great Lakes, known as lakers, are still spreading invasive species from lake to lake.

Canada will require those ships to treat their ballast water by 2030. Citing concerns about the cost to industry, the US has chosen a far slower approach.

US-flagged lakers built after 2027 must be equipped with ballast water treatment systems. But existing ships — which can last indefinitely with proper maintenance — are exempt.

The regulations have been challenged in court by environmentalists who want tougher restrictions and a freighter trade group that wants weaker ones.

An industry-funded study estimated the cost to upgrade the Great Lakes fleet at $639 million, plus $11 million in yearly maintenance. A 2005 study put the economic cost of aquatic invasives in the Great Lakes region at $5.7 billion per year, mostly from decreased fishing.

A top official with the Lake Carriers’ Association argued installing treatment systems would “put us out of business,” threatening a key piece of the $36 billion Great Lakes shipping industry.

“If you really wanted to stop the problem of the spread of invasives, you would stop commerce,” said Jim Weakley, the Lake Carriers’ Association president.

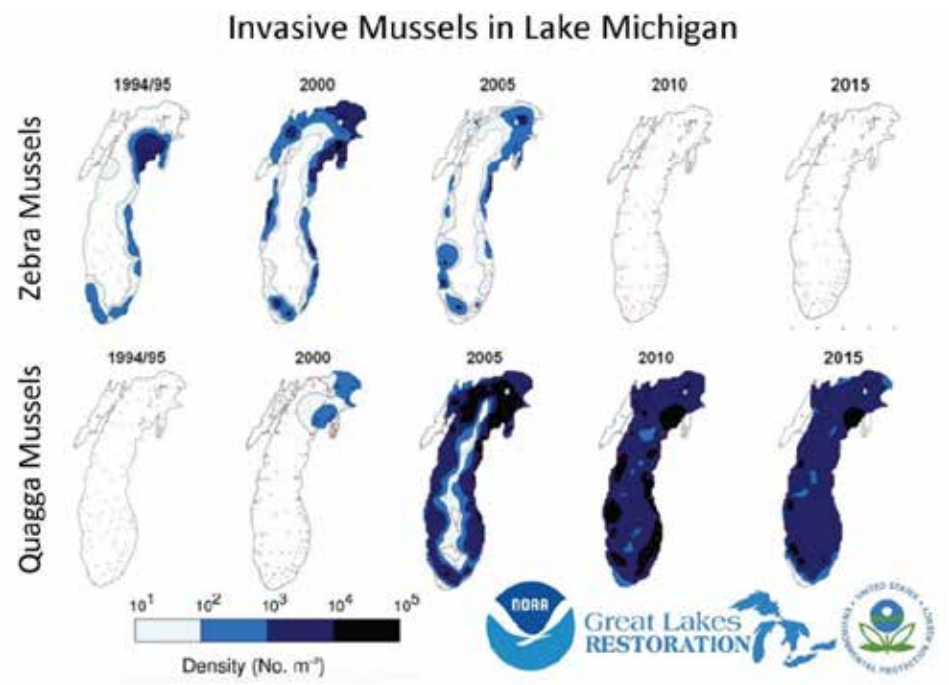
“You would stop recreation. You would stop people from moving. Ballast water and ships aren’t the only factor.”

Climate change will only bring more dramatic change, warming the water and disrupting the seasonal “turnover” cycle that regulates temperature and brings life-giving oxygen to the deepest water. The impacts on native fish likely won’t be positive.

Great Lakes advocates see it all as a rallying cry for stronger invasive species protections, swifter climate action and more effort toward researching solutions for invasive mussels while keeping new invaders out.

Among other things, they seek more money for invasive species surveillance, boat washing stations at recreational lakes and a crackdown on the exotic species trade.

“There’s no reason we can’t stop the tide of new invaders coming in, and at the same time help the Great Lakes stabilize and restore where we can,” said Joel Brammeier, president and CEO of the Alliance for the Great Lakes.



A map depicting the spread of invasive mussels in Lake Michigan shows how zebra mussels, once considered the Great Lakes’ main bivalve invader, have waned while quagga mussels have expanded to cover nearly every inch of the lakebed. (Courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

Go to *bridgemi.com* for the full story with pictures.

MAN EXPLORES THE ARCHIPELAGO ON KAYAK

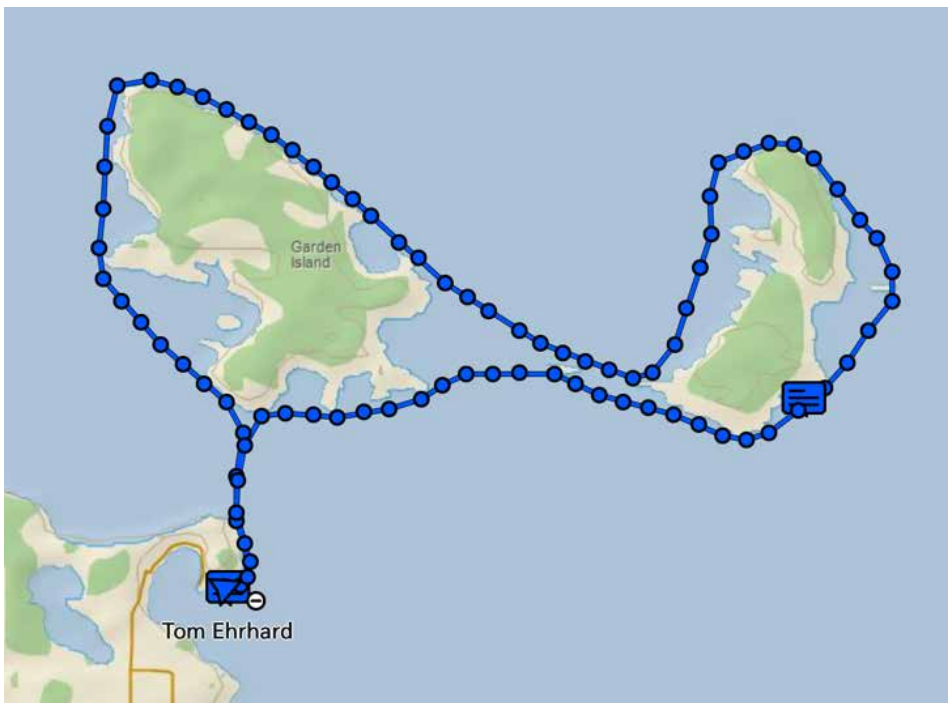
By Elsie Burton

On July 11, 2025, annual Beaver Island visitor Tom Ehrhard, 67, circumnavigated Garden and Hog Islands in a sea kayak, solo and completely unsupported. He started on Beaver Island near the Car Wash, and the trip took just over 7 hours to complete with only one stop. Last year, Tom circumnavigated Beaver Island in a record-setting 9 hours and 30 minutes.

Tom and his wife, Karen, live in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and have been coming to Beaver Island for almost a decade, the last five years for two months at a time. A 30-year Air Force veteran and avid endurance athlete, Tom wanted a way to experience the water, learn a new skill, and get quality exercise. Tom started training soon after arriving on May 30, learning how to paddle more efficiently and handle Lake Michigan's challenging waters.

But it takes more than good fitness to get around Garden and Hog Islands, a voyage of approximately 35 miles. Doing a long kayak expedition unsupported is much more challenging, as he had to carry everything needed for the trip, including food, hydration, and emergency gear. Paddling around Garden and Hog Islands, which are mostly uninhabited, also meant he was really on his own. The trip was largely uneventful, although every time he turned a corner, the big lake provided another wind and wave challenge.

Tom thanked his wife, Karen, for supporting his training. He credits his fitness, planning, training, and dogged perseverance when things got challenging. Tom and Karen hope to be back next summer, and you may see Tom training in his kayak as he prepares for the next extreme expedition on the beautiful Beaver Island archipelago.



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Community Collage

Beaver Island at a glance

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The Kids' Corner

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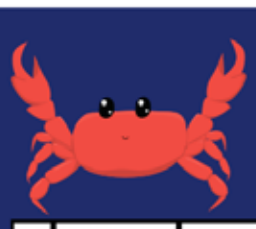
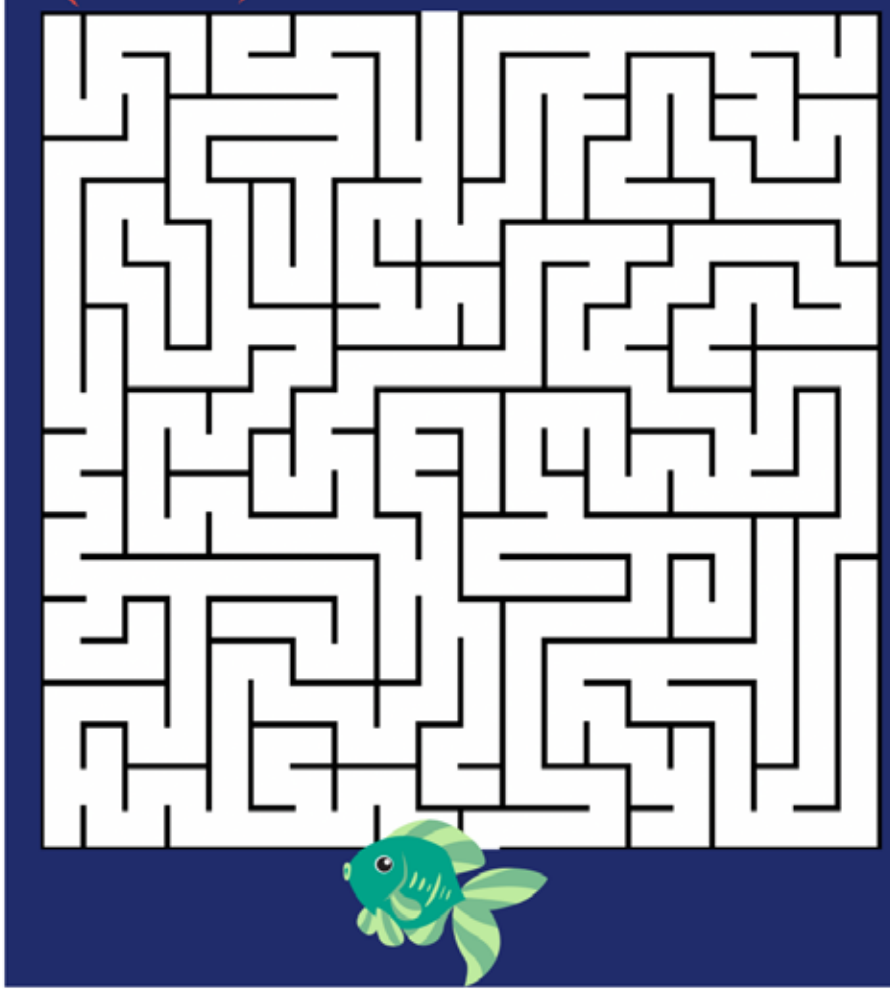
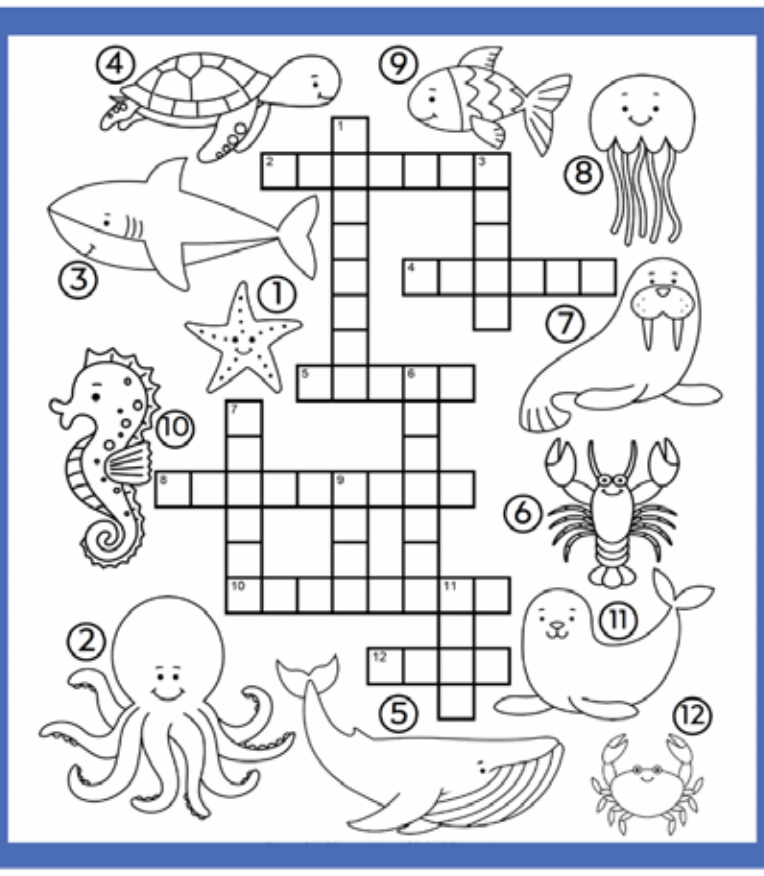


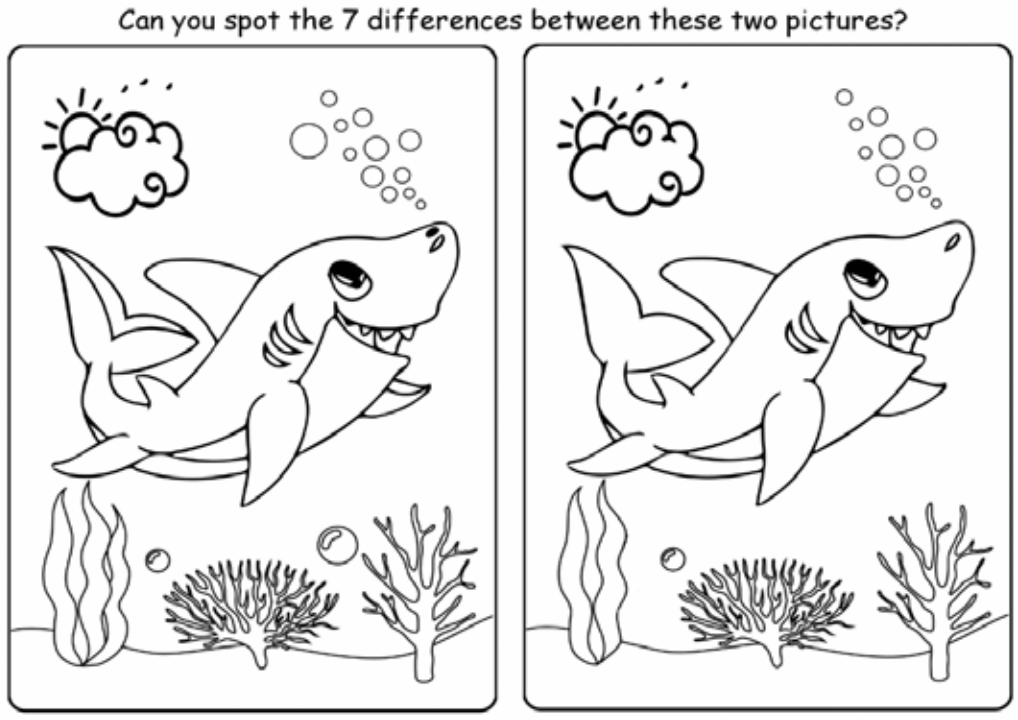
Help the crab find a yummy fish snack!





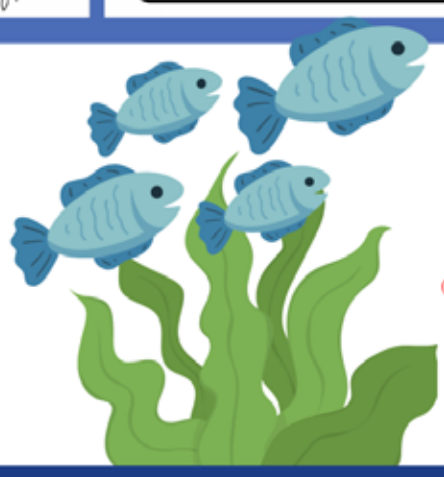
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

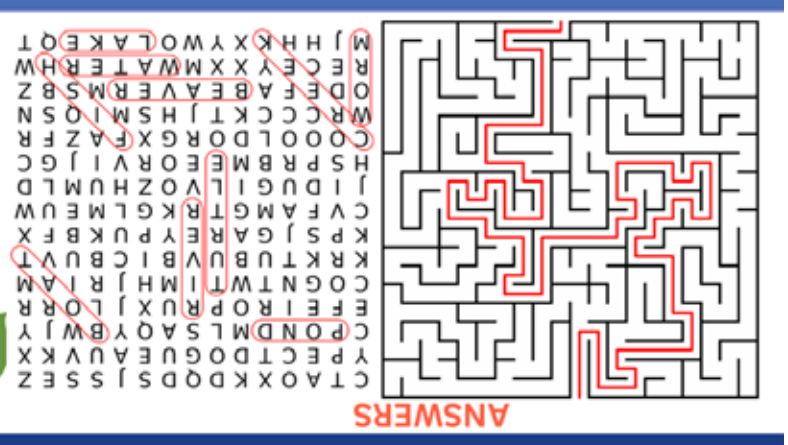
Can you spot the 7 differences between these two pictures?



Don't forget to bring your completed kids' page to the Beaver Island Print Shop Museum for a prize!

AND, send a picture of you and your page to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** to be featured in the monthly paper!





ANSWERS

BEAVER ISLAND COFFEE COMPANY CHALLENGES OTHER BUSINESSES

By George Broder

National Health Center Week August 3-9, 2025

As National Health Center Week approaches, the Beaver Island Coffee Company is stepping up in a big way to support the heartbeat of the community—the Beaver Island Rural Health Center. From August 3–9, with every drink purchased, the Beaver Island Coffee Company will contribute $1 toward the health center, and all tips received during the week's days of operation will also be donated in full. It's a flavorful way to say "thank you" to the clinic that delivers lifesaving care and compassionate service to residents and seasonal visitors alike, year-round.

Whether you're a local grabbing your daily cup or a visitor soaking in the island's charm, your purchase at the Beaver Island Coffee Company becomes a meaningful investment in rural wellness.

In celebrating the clinic's tireless work, the Beaver Island Coffee Company is challenging every business on Beaver Island to match their spirit with their own creative fundraising efforts. The goal: amplify awareness, raise donations, and unite in a show of community pride.

The challenge is simple yet powerful—support the health center that supports us all. Businesses can take part by committing to raise or donate funds. Let's turn every sale into an act of care.

Together, we can brew resilience—and serve up a better future, one donation at a time. Get involved. Make a difference!

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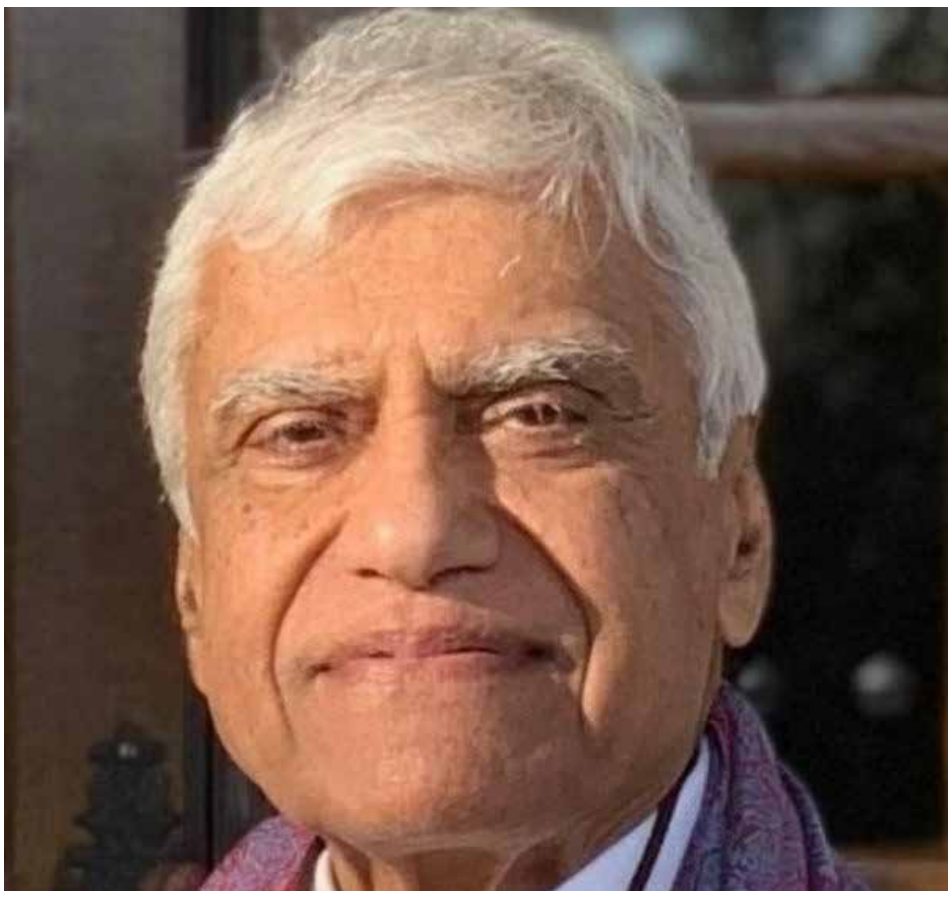
NARENDRA BHATIA, ENGINEER AND LONG-TIME BEAVER ISLAND SUMMER RESIDENT, DIES AT 89

Submitted by the Bhatia family

Narendra (Naren) Bhatia began his time on Beaver Island more than 25 years ago when he purchased property on Greene's Bay, where he and his family spent many summers.



Narendra Kumar Bhatia was born in Sialkot, India, on or around January 14, 1936. He was the second of seven siblings. In 1947, during the upheaval of Partition, he and his family were displaced, and they resettled on the Indian side of Punjab.

Through a blend of hard work, vision, academic excellence, and no small measure of pluck, Naren rose above the challenges of his time. Along with his closest friend and brother, Virendra, he was among the few to earn a full scholarship to college. He earned degrees in physics, math, and English literature before adding a degree in civil engineering in Mumbai and, at just 20 years old, began his career with the Punjab Irrigation Department, overseeing canals built to irrigate rural lands.

In 1962, he departed for the US with little more than a suitcase, a blanket and a few dollars in his pocket. After stops in Hong Kong and San Francisco, he made his way to the University of Minnesota where he managed the biting cold of Minneapolis, washed dishes and taught Punjabi to Peace Corps volunteers to make ends meet, and graduated within 12 months with a master's in civil/structural engineering.

Naren was exceedingly proud to be an engineer, which he considered a noble profession. After graduate school he moved to California and was involved in projects as varied as paper mills in rural Oregon to the design of a satellite tracking installation in Australia used to support the Apollo missions.

He spent most of his career at Bechtel and CMS Energy, managing the design and construction of power plants around the world. At Bechtel, he worked on many projects including the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant in Homestead, Florida where, much to his surprise, he was named Project Engineer. His career was filled with adventure: he and his family lived in Spain for five years, and later while living in Ann Arbor he managed projects spread across sixteen countries and six continents. He enjoyed tabulating his total flight miles, delighting in how many times he had, in effect, circled the globe.

He was curious about new cultures and never hesitated to strike up a conversation with anyone willing to chat. He was particularly proud to have learned Spanish and would test it out on unsuspecting targets, whenever he could.

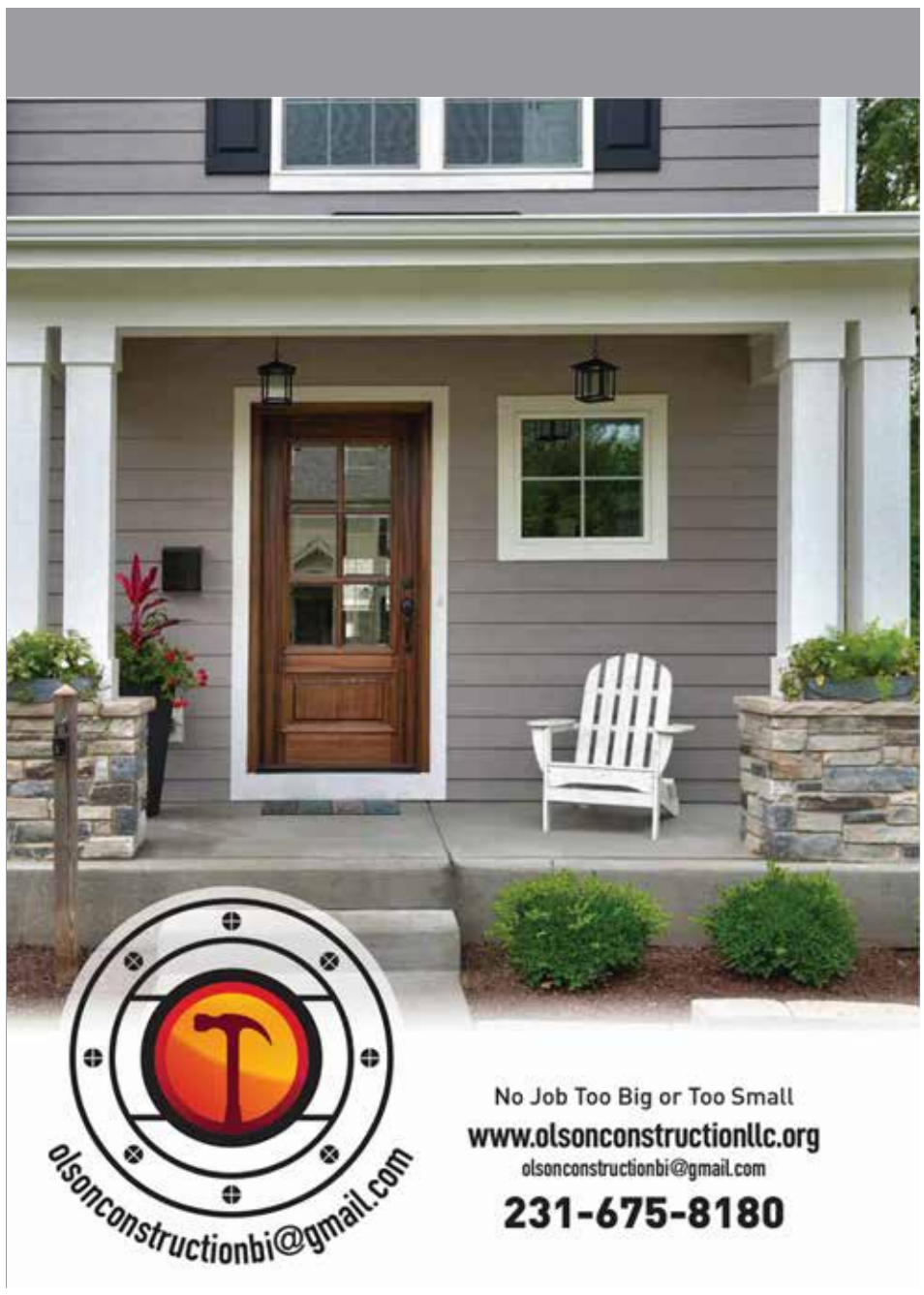
He read Foreign Affairs and his daily newspapers religiously, always engaged in history and geopolitics. He challenged those around him to stay informed, to think critically, and to ask questions. He often reminded his children of how difficult life was for so many. He volunteered for political campaigns and as a retiree knocked on doors in Iowa during a presidential campaign – easily and proudly the oldest volunteer in the buses that drove the twenty-something year old campaign volunteers from Michigan to Iowa. Late in life he learned to play the piano and despite middling talent and a fading memory, he kept at it and loved the opportunity to be musical.

One of his favorite party tricks was solving highly complex math problems in his head, a skill he maintained to the very end. He enjoyed, at age 89, being the oldest member of his gym. Naren could be competitive but one forgave it as a prerequisite to navigate the difficult path he had taken.

He was above all a sincerely kind and gentle man. He was a dedicated father - coaching soccer despite not knowing the rules, and coaching field hockey where he did. His children knew he was in their corner - supportive, often worried and inquiring about updates and developments, and always proud and pleased to see them happy. Naren loved the life he built for his family over 50 years in Ann Arbor and on Beaver Island, MI.

And he was a husband who loved his wife dearly. It was during his time in Los Angeles that he met Nishta Gill. As he retold the story countless times, it was love at first sight. At a reception for the Indian Consul General in November 1965, quick on his feet and with his memorable grin, he outmaneuvered a crowd of suitors to claim the seat next to her. Six months later, they were married. He very regularly would proclaim that the greatest fortune in his life was to marry Nishta, and that it changed his life profoundly in ways he could never have achieved on his own. They were married for 59 years, and there was unlikely a day that he didn't feel like he had won the lottery.

Naren died in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on May 16, 2025, at the age of 89. Ever the numbers man, he had long been statistically convinced he would reach 90-so he was close. He leaves behind two sisters Kanta and Shashi, his wife Nishta, his daughter Meera, his son Ranjeet, his daughter-in-law Elisabeth, his grandchildren, Finn and Nora, and many nieces and nephews.



BRAIDING IRISH & NATIVE AMERICAN ISLAND ROOTS:
BEAVER ISLAND IRISH HERITAGE GROUP

By Kathleen (Kitty) McNamara

A good crowd gathered at the Community Center on the evening of June 20th, to enjoy an extraordinary evening of music and dance as part of the 2025 Sustainability Fair. The theme of the day was Braiding Irish & Native American Roots and that theme played out beautifully with energy and planning on the part of Native American groups and the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group.

The evening event was opened with remarks by Kitty McNamara (see remarks below in quotes) on behalf of the Irish Heritage Group and Cynthia Pryor on behalf of the Amik Circle Society. Following introductions, the audience was treated to traditional 'jingle dances' by three young Native American Dancers, one a descendant of the Beaver Island Kenwabikisie family. BIIHG board member Bridget Martin and students presented traditional Irish dances for the a udience to enjoy.

These dances were the prelude to the unforgettable flute music and spiritual messages of John Two-Hawks. John is a Grammy nominated musician of Lakota and Irish Heritage. His music and message was a balm to all in attendance and we can only hope that he will return to Beaver Island. I was asked to share my introductory remarks more publicly as the remarks sum up the braiding of the Native and Irish cultures, here on Beaver Island and internationally. Here are my remarks:

"I am looking forward to feeling the strength, tradition, joy, and healing that we will all have the privilege to enjoy through dance this evening. Miigwech, Go Rah Mah Agut, Thank you to each of the dancers who will be bringing us into their personal spaces which reflect the many faces of their unique yet similar cultures. As I reflect on the theme of this special event for the 10th annual Beaver Island Sustainability Fair: Braiding Irish & Native American Cultures, I can't think of a better way to begin tonight's program than through the dances of these two cultures.

There is a concrete physical representation of this braiding of cultures on Beaver Island. When the 'new' school was designed and built, a grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Odawa Indians allowed us to have a local stained-glass artist prepare three windows to adorn its entryway, the school crest being one. The other two represent the Beaver Island Irish and Native American communities. One reflects the red, white, yellow and black native American medicine wheel and one reflects the green, orange and white of an Irish Celtic knot.

These two cultures have so many things in common–but I will focus on four areas where I think the connections are quite apparent: Nature, Family Connections, Adversity and Faith.

NATURE - Both cultures embrace nature as fundamental to who they are. Both cultures celebrate the rhythm of the seasons and the glory of the landscape as essential to their being. From the Wild Atlantic Way of Western Ireland and their lush green fields to the Great Lakes of America and the immense forests and prairies surrounding them, both cultures historically and contemporaneously are nature connected.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS – Both cultures place a high priority on family connections and knowing and understanding which clan you are a part of–for good and bad. On Beaver Island many of the Family Clans of the historic Irish families are linked back to Arranmore Island, off the northwest coast of Ireland from which they were forced out in the mid-1800's. Those who made their way to Beaver Island (many via Canada), once settled, sent back for other family members. Many of the Irish Americans living on the Island today tie back to those families; over the years and continuing today is the tradition among these clans to reach out and help and support any member who is in need, and in fact any person who is in need. I know the same can be said of the Native American families. Both Irish and Native Americans honor their ancestors and strive to make things better for generations to come.

ADVERSITY – Both cultures have endured forced emigration, colonization of their lands and livelihoods, degradation of their sense of self by occupying forces. A great example of a Native American response to Irish adversity came during the Great Hunger in 1847 and was reciprocated in an Irish response to Native American adversity in 2020 during the COVID-19 crisis.

In 1847, during the height of the The Great Hunger, also called the Irish Famine, the Choctaw Nation, despite their own history of suffering and displacement during the 1831 Trail of Tears, donated $170 (equivalent to tens of thousands of dollars today) to aid the starving in Ireland. This extraordinary gesture came after a decade of hardship for the Choctaws. The money was sent to Irish relief committees in Memphis and New York, becoming one of the most significant contributions to famine relief during "Black 47," a period when close to a million Irish were dying of starvation. The bond formed by this act of kindness persisted, with Irish President Mary Robinson visiting the Choctaw Nation in 1995 to express gratitude, and a commemorative sculpture, "Kindred Spirits," being dedicated to the Choctaw Nation in Midleton, Ireland, in 2017.

The story of mutual generosity came full circle in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the Navajo Nation and Hopi Reservation severely impacted by the crisis, the Irish community, inspired by the Choctaw Nation's historical aid, organized a substantial donation to assist these Native American communities. This act reaffirmed the enduring legacy of solidarity between the Choctaws and the Irish, showcasing how an act of compassion over a century earlier continued to inspire and strengthen global connections during times of need.

FAITH – Both cultures have maintained faith despite centuries of erosion of their spiritual beliefs and erosion of their unique indigenous ceremonies through the strong influence of Christianity. Both traditional cultures held faith to honor and celebrate the changing of the seasons and its people's connections to the Earth. As our greater world moves through this 21st century and the myriad of challenges I hope that both the Irish and Native Americans can maintain faith and celebrate the strengths of their cultures, the reemerging use of their native languages, the reinvigoration of their pride in traditional knowledge to guide the next generations to keep the faith and live lives of compassion and care for one another and our world. To paraphrase Choctaw Chief Gary Batton: "Adversity often brings out the best in people. Sharing our cultures makes the world grow smaller."

As the Executive Director of the BI Irish Heritage Group, I would like to see our group take initiative to better understand how the Irish migration to Beaver Island affected the local native American communities and to support tribal initiatives that enhance and celebrate their very special culture. I believe the local tribal groups, Beaver Island Historical Society and the Amik Circle Society are doing great work in this area."

If you have content you would like to share for review, contact the editor of the Northern Islander
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A SUMMER TO REMEMBER: KIDS' CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

By Olga Burton

The much-anticipated annual Kids' Camp week has arrived once again, and both the campers and counselors couldn't have been more excited. With a packed schedule full of fun activities, games, and new friendships, the week was a huge success. This year, around 50 energetic kids participated—ranging from curious four-year-olds to adventurous fourteen-year-olds—all grouped by age to ensure a week of fun.

Camp officially kicked off on Monday, July 21, as the kids were welcomed by their counselors and introduced to their camp groups. Right from the start, the energy was contagious. Each day featured a blend of morning and afternoon activities designed to keep the campers entertained.

Each day, we had amazing arts and crafts sessions for every age. Campers got hands-on with colorful projects like decorating and flying kites, personalizing drawstring bags, sculpting with Model Magic air-dry clay, and crafting pinwheels—just to name a few. These artistic tasks gave kids a chance to express themselves, and they were even able to take home a piece of the fun to show their families.

For those who preferred to stay active, there were lots of outdoor adventures. On the soccer field, kids raced to launch their kites into the sky, and a special track-and-field day featured relays, bean bag tosses, three-legged races, and many more classic games. There was a huge scavenger hunt that led the kids all around town and allowed them to explore and talk to local community members. Even when rain forced activities indoors, the campers didn't miss a beat. They gathered in the gym for fun team-building games and group challenges that kept spirits high—even when they couldn't get outside.

The grand finale came on Friday, the most exciting day of all. Campers slid, splashed, and laughed for hours on a giant slip-and-slide before enjoying a fun gathering with their families. The afternoon wrapped up with a heartwarming talent show, where kids proudly performed songs, showed off their pets and favorite stuffed animals, and shared their unique talents with the group.

Throughout the week, campers also enjoyed delicious daily lunches, generously provided by some of the island's favorite local spots. Monday's meal came from Daddy Franks—hot dogs and chips. On Tuesday, the Beaver Island Community Center delivered its ever-popular pizza. Wednesday's lunch was thoughtfully prepared by The Wild Strawberry, featuring bagged turkey and ham sandwiches. On Thursday, campers enjoyed a hearty spaghetti meal made by Vikki Fingeroot. Finally, Friday featured a special potluck-style lunch, with families contributing a delicious variety of dishes, creating a wonderful community feast to close out the week.

From start to finish, Kids' Camp was filled with laughter, learning, and lasting memories. Thanks to the dedication of the counselors, the support of local businesses, and the enthusiasm of every camper, the week was a true celebration of fun and community. It's safe to say that everyone is already counting down the days until next summer's camp!

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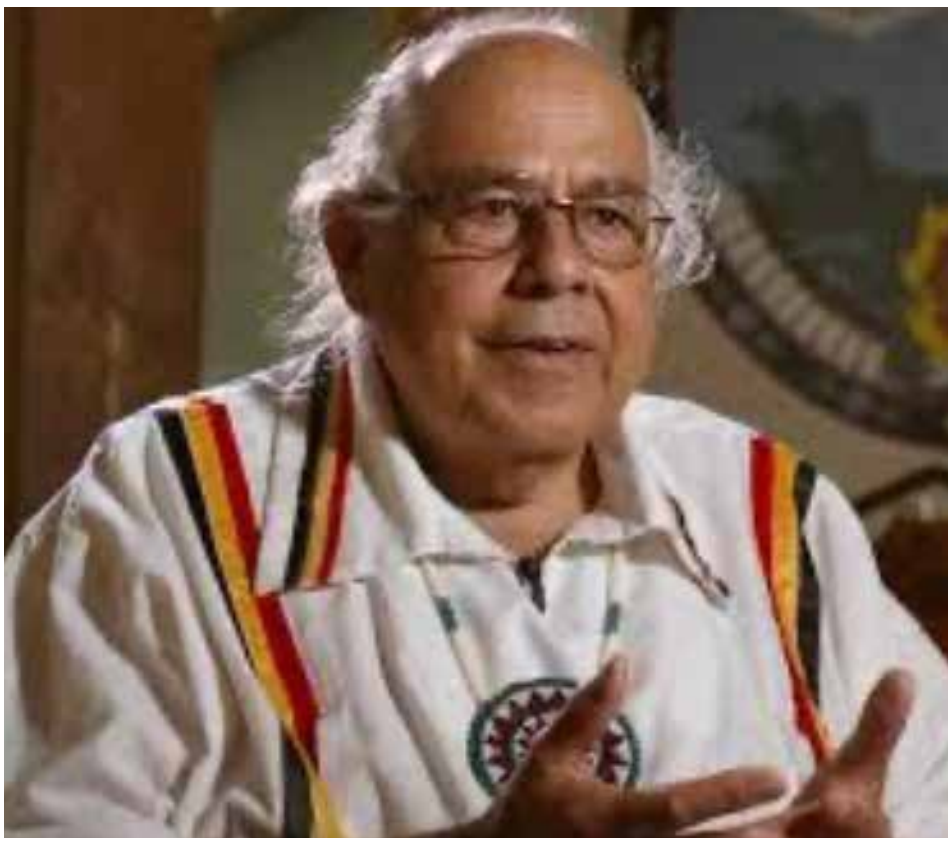
LTBB TRIBAL CITIZENS HONORED WITH 2025 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

By Melissa Wiatrolik



Frank Ettawageshik and the late Wesley Andrews, both citizens of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, have been recognized with the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN). Frank, former LTBB Tribal Chairman, was honored for over 40 years of leadership in protecting Indigenous rights, environmental advocacy, and cultural heritage — including helping to secure the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and representing Indigenous voices internationally. He continues to serve in key roles across tribal and preservation organizations.

The late Wesley Andrews (1951–2023), remembered for his collaborative work as an archaeologist and historian, advanced historic preservation in Michigan by training LTBB youth, documenting ancestral Odawa sites, and facilitating the respectful repatriation of Native remains. Andrews served as LTBB's first Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and played a pivotal part in creating the tribe's preservation office.

Both honorees leave enduring legacies of stewardship, education, and cultural advocacy for future generations.

CULTURE WARRIORS PADDLE 24 MILES TO BEAVER ISLAND IN HONORING TRADITION: ENDURANCE JOURNEY ON THE LONGEST DAY CELEBRATES HERITAGE AND SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

By Melissa Wiatrolik

Cross Village, MI — In a remarkable feat of endurance and dedication to cultural tradition, 14 Culture Warriors undertook a 24-mile paddle across open water from Cross Village to Amik Mnis, also known as Beaver Island, on the longest day of the year.

Their destination: Siniin Waawiyebii'igan, the Stone Circle, a sacred gathering place for prayer and reflection. While many choose to reach Beaver Island by air, this group opted for the traditional Jiimaan, or canoe, honoring ancestral ways and embracing the challenge of a journey marked by danger and uncertainty.

"This trip isn't just about endurance—it's about connecting with our heritage and honoring the spirits of our ancestors," shared one of the Warriors. "Traveling by Jiimaan, we follow in their wake, praying and reflecting as they once did."

Fred Harrington was given the honor of steering and navigating the Jiimaan. His leadership was described as a guiding force, helping the group safely complete their passage and deepen their relationship with the land, water, and each other.

The trek to Siniin Waawiyebii'igan was more than a test of strength; it was an act of cultural affirmation. Participants expressed that, despite the hazards and exhaustion, the experience fostered a profound sense of unity and spiritual renewal.

"Our people have always turned to the water and the land for strength," another member remarked. "Paddling together on the solstice, we embraced the old ways. We arrived tired, but uplifted—connected to something greater than ourselves."

The event stands as a testament to the enduring power of tradition and the unbroken spirit of a community determined to keep its stories, rituals, and identity alive for generations to come.

Photos provided by Dawn Mackety

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2025 BEAVER ISLAND HOMECOMING DINNER

Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2025! Join us for the 93rd Annual Homecoming Chicken BBQ Dinner: A Legacy of Community!

Since 1932, Homecoming weekend has been a cornerstone of the Beaver Island community. Traditions like parades and dances have been replaced by new activities such as softball tournaments and a kid's carnivals but, a constant amidst the evolving Homecoming festivities has been the annual Chicken dinner. Please join us as we cap off the weekend's festivities with food, drink and a celebration of families, community, and togetherness!

Sunday, August 10th, 4:30-7:30 PM at Holy Cross Hall.

Traditional Chicken BBQ & Island Trimmings.

Adults: $15
Children (12 & under): $10.

All proceeds benefit Holy Cross of Beaver Island.

STOLEN MAILBOX?

By George Broder

Inquiring minds have been asking - what happened to our "Local" mailbox? A High School Seniors prank? Off island for repainting? President Trump budget cuts? It's none of these.

Our Postmaster reports that the "snorkel" (U.S. Postal Service slang for mailbox) was removed as long expected, implementing a policy set quite a while ago. This is happening at Post Offices on the mainland and around the country.

"Local" mail on Beaver Island can still be placed inside at the existing slot. So this option and convenience is available, with just a bit of extra effort. If you use the outside snorkel for "local" it will be delivered, just maybe after a trip to the mainland and back.

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“ENERGY DAY” PRESENTS BEAVER ISLAND WITH EXCITING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SOLAR OPTIONS

Submitted by the Beaver Island Sustainability Initiative, Smart Energy Team

A key part of Beaver Island’s 10th Annual Sustainability Fair this year were the exciting presentations during “Energy Day” by the Energy Research Team who travelled recently to Beaver Island. The Team members were from Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL), the National Renewable Energy Lab, and Slipstream. The Team made two fine presentations during Beaver Island’s recent Sustainability Fair regarding Beaver Island’s great potentials for meeting its own energy needs practically, reliably, and in a cost-effective manner.

An amazing Energy conclusion that the Energy Research Team offered to us was:

- Just 40 acres of ground mount solar could provide the whole of Beaver Island’s electrical needs reliably and cost efficiently now, and for the immediate foreseeable future.

We are fortunate to have a local Island property owner with 40 acres close to our electrical transfer station who is enthusiastic about offering his site for ground mount Community solar to serve Beaver Island’s needs.

We must add for clarification: contrary to a rumor, this is not a “corporate or state of Michigan takeover of valuable farmland”—but is vacant unused acreage offered by a longtime Island property owner to meet Beaver Island citizens electrical needs. And the land is snuggled away out of sight from the main road.

This was just one of the amazing facts shared with us by the Energy Research Team at the Beaver Island Sustainability Fair on June 17, in a presentation hosted by the CMU Biological Station. There were some good questions asked and answered regarding Beaver Island’s great potentials to produce its own electric energy in a local, reliable, and cost effective manner—a serious Island need highlighted again by the recent ice storm.

Another amazing fact: Solar is one of the cheapest forms of energy available today. As cited in Bill McKibben’s new book “Here Comes the Sun”, China is adding 1 megawatt of new solar generated power every 8 hours to its energy grid. That’s the equivalent of adding the energy of one new nuclear power plant—but at a substantially lower cost!

Wise siting of solar arrays is key too—of course solar panel arrays should not displace valuable farmland currently in use. But solar energy does not mean the destruction of farmland, as panels can be removed at any time with no harm to the land.

MSU is currently studying the exciting field of Agrivoltaics where solar panels used in combination with the right crops can be mutually beneficial. The American Farmland Trust sponsors a program called “Smart Solar”, referring to solar projects that meet three main goals:

1. safeguarding land well-suited for farming and ranching,
2. strengthening farm viability
3. accelerating solar energy development.

Local action is needed now on our Island!

- Local action is needed by our community members now to actively reach out to our townships in moving forward to these energy options. We need Island residents to encourage our township trustees to get engaged with and get help directly from the free, available and friendly programs “SolSmart” and “Solar for All,” in order for Beaver Island to be solar friendly and solar ready.
- Local Action is needed by islanders to engage with our townships in choosing from the excellent practical model options presented to us by the PNNL Energy Research Team. This includes potential energy efficiency measures for our critical infrastructures (our school, our community center, our health center, etc.) for cost savings and reliability—as recently identified by KEEN technology solutions from Traverse City.
- Local action also means residents discovering the available cost-saving energy efficiency options for their homes, with rebates still available but ending soon—as in the example recently modelled by one Beaver island resident.
- Local action also includes the very exciting and promising option presented for ground mount community solar to serve Beaver Island’s energy independence and resiliency needs.

Beaver Islanders have invested four years of time, energy, money and attention towards valuable research for the Island’s Energy Future. The results are in, and they are looking good! We need citizen action now to encourage our township trustees to follow-up on this valuable research—to study and choose from these exciting model options, and to utilize the free help available from EGLE and solar help companies before the next ice storm and power outages strike.

Questions? Would you like to be involved?

Leave message at 231-448-2477, or email seamus@tarasmeadow.org.

Follow the Beaver Island Sustainability Initiative on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BISustain

Pictured is McDonough’s Market - Innovators in Beaver Island Solar & Energy Efficiency Measures

BEAVER ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL

By Elsie Burton

AUGUST 15 & 16

The Beaver Island Film Festival returns this August with a celebration of storytelling, creativity, and community spirit. On August 15, a series of short films will be featured at the Beaver Island Historical Society, showcasing diverse voices and cinematic styles. The festival continues on August 16 with a feature-length film screening at the Beaver Island Community Center. Curated by John Sauve, who brings over 25 years of experience organizing film festivals, the event promises a rich blend of independent filmmaking and community engagement.

Among the highlights this year is a short film by Quintan DeLaat, a Beaver Island Community School graduate and emerging filmmaker currently studying film. Quintan, who was recently featured in last month’s paper, will also be working with local youth as part of the festival’s mission to inspire the next generation of artists. The festival is not only a celebration of cinema but a catalyst for artistic growth on the island.

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NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

By Robert Cole

August holds many treats at your Community Center as the summer rolls on. Our regular programs—like yoga, exercise, Senior & Veterans Coffee and Doughnuts, and more—are detailed on the Community Calendar at *biccenter.org*, along with ticket information. Meanwhile, the headliners are listed below.

August 2 leads with the **Season Finale of the Baroque on Beaver** concert series, celebrating the conclusion of Baroque's 24th season with an unforgettable evening of music. Baroque's newly appointed associate conductor, Nathan Bieber, will lead an exceptional ensemble in a dynamic program featuring works by Astor Piazzolla and Beethoven's Symphony No. 4. Adding to the excitement, the winner of this year's Young Soloist Competition—chosen from talented high school musicians across the state—will take the stage to perform selected pieces.

August 7 brings this year's major fundraiser for the Community Center and WVBI: the **Summer Breeze Gala**, this year hosted at the CMU Biological Station. It will be an evening of great music, food, and fun. We'll have a plated dinner with a selection of beers and wines, live music by John Ellison & the Carpenter Ants, raffle items, and both silent and live auction items. It will be a lovely sunset retreat to dream the night away at this very special location—and all for a very special purpose: to raise funds to support the operation of the island's Community Center and radio station.

The last installment of the **Beaver Island Jazz Series** on August 14 welcomes back island favorite Claudia Schmidt. Claudia brings her exuberant music back to Beaver Island with a twist: for 2025, she will perform as part of a jazz trio, adding her multi-octave voice, 12-string guitar, and mountain dulcimer to the artistry of veteran bassist Andy Evans and acclaimed jazz pianist Steve Stargardt. The three will offer a delightful program of standards, blues, originals, and, of course, story and spoken word. Those of you who have heard Claudia's folk show will be amazed at her jazz chops!

On the 16th, the **Beaver Island Historical Society Film Series** brings one of its features into our theater: the documentary Plimpton, an intimate look at the legendary journalist George Plimpton. And on the night of the 19th, we host **Let's Get Quizzical! Trivia Night**, which runs once monthly in the summer. Join us for a night of brain teasers and lots of laughs. The fee for teams to play is $20 per team. Please have one person register for the whole team, and note—if more than 10 teams register, we'll hold Trivia Night in the Theater instead of the Hangout.

Finally, on August 29 is the return of another Beaver Island favorite, Zachariah Malachi, performing this summer with his band, **The Familiars**. They'll pay homage to the golden era of country music while fearlessly exploring new territory, making this performance a journey through several genres and eras. A dynamic and unpredictable performer, Malachi has built a strong following thanks to his electrifying live shows, which are equal parts heartfelt storytelling and rollicking good time. Whether he's crooning a tearjerker or tearing through a barn-burner, his stage presence is magnetic and his passion unmistakable. The Familiars are the full band he regularly plays with in downtown Nashville—seasoned players who bring a tight, high-energy sound honed from countless nights on the city's most iconic stages. Together, they create a musical experience that's as authentic as it is unforgettable.

Join us at your Community Center this August for a full plate of great offerings for all tastes!

Baroque ON BEAVER

Thank You!

Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance

We're deeply grateful to everyone who made our 24th season such a success: our performers, staff, audiences, donors, sponsors, community partners, and volunteers.

As we wrap up the summer, we invite you to join us for one more evening of music:
The Claudia Schmidt Jazz Trio on August 14th at 7:30pm

For More Information Scan Here

ISLAND BOCCE TOURNAMENT ROLLS INTO ITS 9TH YEAR

By Frank D'Andraia

Come throw out the pallino and throw down for a worthy cause!

The 9th Annual Island Bocce Tournament returns to Peaine Township's Font Lake Park on Homecoming Sunday, August 10. The competition begins at 11 a.m. and ends at about 4 p.m. All proceeds from the 2025 Island Bocce Tournament, or "Roll," will benefit the Beaver Island Rural Health Center.

Tickets are $55 on the day of the event. Register in advance by August 1 and shave $5 off the admission price. Lunch only: $25 (no discount). Tickets may be purchased at the BIC Center.

Special discounts are available on Tournament Day for current Health Center donors: Legacy Tree Society Members receive free admission. Donors who are 1953 Consecutive Giving Society Members receive 25% off the ticket price ($13.75) at the tournament registration desk only.

Pictured: Frank D'Andraia and crew prepare bocce courts for the annual August tournament

Each ticket includes admission to play, use of bocce equipment, and lunch with a drink. So stop by to play for prizes, cheer on the players, observe the games, or simply bring a chair (and hat) and have a day out in the sun. Delicious Italian fare is included with the admission price: Italian sausages on a roll, salads (including vegan), fresh fruit, and homemade biscotti—plus cold San Pellegrino sparkling fruit beverages.

Interested in learning how to play bocce? Pick-up games occur most Thursday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., weather permitting. Roll on over, observers are welcome, and most players are happy to let you join a game and "learn by doing."

The Island Bocce Tournament has generated over $17,000 for Island nonprofits, including the Community Center/WVBI (2024), Beaver Island Historical Society (2023), Beaver Island Food Bank (2022), Bocce Courts Construction at Font Lake Township Park (2021), Forest View Senior Housing (2019), Friends of Beaver Island Animals (2018), and Island Performing Arts Alliance (2017). There was no tournament in 2020.

With delicious food and camaraderie, the annual "Roll" is a celebration of the sport, and in support of a good cause, the Island's Rural Health Center.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
FEATURING PAUL COLE
By Lois Stipp

Paul Cole is a champion of community and heritage.

It's not hard to spot Paul Cole around Beaver Island. Whether he's helping plan the Emerald Isle Irish Feile, tending to details at the Community Center, or attending a St. James Township meeting, Paul's been keeping busy—and quietly helping keep the island connected.

Paul Cole was born and raised on the island. His connection to the land and its people runs deep. After spending years off-island pursuing a career, he returned not to retire quietly—but to reinvest his time and energy into the community that shaped him. Paul came back with a mindset: contribute where you can. As the Director of the Beaver Island Community Center (BIC Center) and an active Board member, Paul helps organize events and programs that bring folks together year-round through the 'hub' of our community. Additionally, as the Executive Director of the BI Chamber of Commerce he works to support local businesses, promote tourism, and represents the island on and off the island. He also serves on the St. James Township Board, offering input on things like infrastructure, local planning, and community needs.

Paul, through his work at the Chamber, had a hand in supporting Beaver Island's Dark Sky Project, part of a push to preserve the clear night skies that islanders have enjoyed for generations. It's one of many efforts aiming to blend conservation with community pride.

As chair of the Emerald Isle Irish Feile, Paul helped launch a festival that feels just right for the island. From currach boat rides to live music and dancing, the Feile has become a favorite local tradition—celebrating the Irish roots shared by many island families, going back to settlers from Árainn Mhór off the coast of Donegal.

Paul Cole's story is a testament to the power of returning home—not just to live, but to lead. His work bridges the past and present. His efforts ensure that the island's unique identity continues to thrive for future generations.

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FURBABIES OF BEAVER ISLAND

By Carol and Olga Burton

BOAT SHOP BARRY

Barry the turtle is a beloved little member of our family. He's now around six years old and is a painted turtle—known for their vivid red and yellow markings along their shells and limbs.

Barry hatched unusually late in the season, and he most likely wouldn't have survived the winter on his own. We rescued him just in time, and he's been part of our lives ever since. When we first found Barry, he was barely larger than a silver dollar—tiny and fragile. Over the years, he's grown huge and is now thriving.

Today, he lives comfortably in a spacious tank inside the St. James Boat Shop, where he enjoys a cozy, well-maintained habitat and a front-row view of the comings and goings of island life.

Barry is spoiled by everyone who visits the shop, and he's made many friends who return to see him each year. He's fed a well-balanced diet—but often convinces us to give him more than he needs.

His curious personality has made him something of a mascot for our little shop. Barry is more than just a pet—he's a small, cherished part of our family.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS - JULY 9, 2025

Submitted by Kim Garver

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on July 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Six Commissioners were present.

Motion approved the agenda, as amended.

Motion approved the closed session minutes of June 25, 2025. 5.1 Nays: Commissioner Jess.

Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #25-084, County Expenditures.

Motion approved Resolution #25-085, Resolution Opposing the Proposed Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP) Competitive Procurement.

Motion approved Resolution #25-086, Sheriff's 2024 Robalo 266 Cayman Purchase.

Commissioner Hankins moved to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 Section 8(a) at 10:11 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Chamberlain.

Motion approved Resolution #25-087, County Finance Director Contract.

Motion approved Resolution #25-088, County Administrator Contract. 5.1 Nays: Commissioner Jess.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 10:44 a.m. Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS - JULY 23, 2025

Submitted by Kim Garver

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on July 23, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Six Commissioners were present.

Motion approved the agenda, as amended.

Motion approved the closed session minutes of July 9, 2025.

Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #25-089, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved the resignation of Janie McNabb from the Charlevoix County Materials Management Planning Committee.

Motion approved the appointment of Isha Pithwa to the Charlevoix County Materials Management Planning Committee for a partial term ending 2/28/2030.

Motion approved Resolution #25-090, FY 2026 Resolution of Intent.

Motion approved Resolution #25-091, Accepting Donation of Money or Property to Charlevoix County.

Motion approved Resolution #25-092, Accepting Donation of Money or Property to Charlevoix County.

Motion approved Resolution #25-093, Updated Car Travel Policy.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:46 a.m.

Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website,www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

SPOTTED AND HEADING BACK

A message from Annette Dashiell

Mike Broder and I live within walking distance in Arlington and Falls Church City in Virginia.

He spotted my 20 year old jeep with a Beaver Island tag last winter... thus the picture that appeared in "Beaver Island Sightings" last month *(seen pictured on the right)*.

My loyal jeep and I will make our 41st trek between Michigan and Virginia when we leave in October. Along with my corgi, Tully, we are a happy traveling trio.

BEAVER ISLAND SIGHTINGS

Attention readers: If you have caught a glimpse of Beaver Island around Michigan, the USA, or even across the globe, snap a quick picture and share it with the Northern Islander along with the location you saw it for a shout-out. And, bring your picture into the Old Mormon Print Shop for a prize!

Beaver Island is everywhere!

Send pictures to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org**

A little piece of Beaver Island was spotted in Arlington, Virginia, by Mike Broder

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